

Idaho Employment

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State Overview

IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HITS RECORD LOW

An extended fire season, in-migration from states with weaker economies and an increase of teachers hired to cope with extra students pushed total employment in Idaho to a record 751,900 in September and dropped the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate back to a record low 2.3 percent.

This was the fourth in the previous five months that Idaho's unemployment rate has been the lowest or tied for the lowest in the nation. Montana and Idaho ranked number one in May with an unemployment rate of 2.3 percent. In June Idaho was number three with an unemployment rate of 2.4 percent behind Montana and Hawaii at 2.3 percent. In July Idaho was number one again at 2.3 percent, stayed number one in August at 2.4 percent and continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation in September at 2.3 percent.

September marked the eighth straight month Idaho's unemployment rate has been below 3 percent and the 26th month it has been below 4 percent. It has been six years since Idaho's monthly jobless rate exceeded the national rate, which rose one tenth to 4.7 percent in September.

The September rate was a full percentage point below August 2006, indicating that Idaho's economy was able to absorb this summer's layoff of 1,100 workers at Micron Technology Inc.

Despite wide month-to-month fluctuations in the labor force and the number of people working throughout the state, work force and employment have been moving steadily upward since the year began. The labor force, fueled by people moving into Idaho from other states, has been rising an average of 2,300 a month while the number of people on the job increased by a monthly average of 2,900. That has driven the unemployment rate and number of people unemployed from 3 percent and nearly 23,000 in January to 2.3 percent and under 18,000 in September.

Total employment in Idaho was up 23,800 from September 2006, a 3.3 percent increase compared to the national increase of less than 1 percent. At the same time, the number of people unemployed increased 4.3 percent nationally while total unemployment in Idaho plunged 28.4 percent.

AREA AND COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for 10 labor market areas in Idaho. Labor force information for those areas, Idaho counties and select cities are shown on State Table 1 on pages 4 and 5.

The Grangeville Small Labor Market Area for the second consecutive month reported the highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate at 3.2 percent, down two-tenths of a point from August. However, the current unemployment rate is below the 5.9 percent reported in September 2006. The Hailey area has had the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate every month in 2007. The 1.8 percent reported in September continued that trend. However, the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area and Twin Falls Micropolitan Area were

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close at 1.9 percent. The largest labor market, the Boise metro area, saw no change in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 2.3 percent.

There are 369 metropolitan statistical areas in the nation for which unadjusted unemployment rates are published each month. These rates are not adjusted to reflect the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year. The Idaho Falls metro area for the third consecutive month reported the lowest metro rate in the United States at 1.3 percent in September followed by the Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello metro areas, all at 1.7 percent. The fifth metro area in Idaho, Lewiston, ranked 20th with an unadjusted rate of 2.6 percent. The micropolitan and small labor market areas were not ranked nationally.

Clearwater was the only county reporting an unemployment rate above 5 percent in September. One year earlier, nine counties had rates of 5 percent or more. Washington and Lemhi were above 5 percent; Payette, Idaho and Adams were above 6 percent; Boundary, Benewah and Shoshone were above 7 percent; and Clearwater was at 9.4 percent.

Even with some economic challenges, particularly in construction, 2007 has been a good year for Idaho's labor force. The number of jobless workers has been down in all of these counties and in all counties in Idaho except Fremont. But most of all, seven of the nine rural counties reporting high unemployment rates in September 2006 have experienced an increase in the number of workers. Lemhi County reported a loss of 194 workers while Adams had 65 fewer.

Thirty-four counties recorded unemployment rates at or below 3 percent. Ten were below 2 percent starting with 1.4 percent in Franklin County, the first time that Franklin has had the lowest unemployment rate in the state. The other nine counties under 2 percent were Latah at 1.9 percent, Blaine, Bonneville and Twin Falls at 1.8 percent; Madison and Teton at 1.7 percent; Gooding and Oneida at 1.6 percent and Owyhee at 1.5 percent. One year earlier there were no counties with an unemployment rate below 2 percent.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

The focus on seasonally adjusted data is important to effectively analyze labor force data.

Over one year, the size of the labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment fluctuate sharply because of seasonal events such as changes in the weather, major holidays, reduced or expanded industrial production, harvests and the opening and closing of schools.

Often these seasonal fluctuations are large enough to overshadow other changes in employment figures. Because these events generally follow a regular pattern each year, their influence on the more important, longer-term trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics over the year.

Seasonal adjustment is a statistical tool that attempts to filter out seasonal fluctuations so nonseasonal developments, such as cyclical swings in economic activity, are easier to observe within periods of less than a year. Without the adjustment, it would be extremely difficult to determine how much change was caused by normal seasonal patterns and how much was a result of actual changes in the underlying economic conditions. Those who use employment and unemployment statistics as a guide to the health of the economy to set policy rely on the seasonally adjusted statistics, which can be compared directly from one month to the next so they can accurately follow trends in the labor mar-

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ket. Seasonally adjusted data also allows comparison among Idaho, the nation and the counties because it allows the analysis of the labor force data to be based on economic trends.

NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Idaho added 4,500 nonfarm jobs in September, bringing the total to 668,100, an increase 0.7 percent from August. The growth from September 2006 was 2.2 percent or 14,600 jobs. Nationally, the job growth was up just 0.8 percent over the year.

State and local government experienced the largest growth from August with 8,100 new jobs – 90 percent in state and local education. Private education added 1,100 over the month. The 8,300 new jobs in education during September were a result of the new school year getting under way.

QUARTERLY REPORT – SUMMER JOB CREATION STILL STRONG BUT SLOWING

Continued population growth kept Idaho's economy churning during the summer. Businesses led by retailers, professional and business services, and hotels and restaurants boosted total nonfarm jobs by 2.1 percent over the third quarter of 2006.

While Idaho had the eighth strongest year-to-year job growth rate in the nation in the third quarter, it was below the rate the state turned in for the July-September quarter in 2006. That 4.4 percent growth a year ago ranked fourth nationally.

Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Kansas, Louisiana, Arizona and South Dakota posted higher growth rates for the third quarter. Nationally, nonfarm jobs were up 1.3 percent. State Table 2 on page 7 shows the growth rate and ranking for Idaho and its neighboring states.

Idaho's nonfarm payrolls averaged 664,466 during the three-month period, up from 650,646 in the July-September quarter of 2006. The state's six urban centers – Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls – generated 16,000 new jobs over the year while the statewide job increase was just 13,800. Those centers encompass 14 of Idaho's 44 counties. Their job growth indicates that the remaining 30 counties are losing jobs and missing out on new job opportunities, possibly because of labor shortages. Details of the statewide growth are in State Table 3 on page 6.

Nearly 33 percent of the new jobs were in retail trade. Jobs added in professional and business services and accommodations and food services accounted for another 45 percent. Notable job gains were recorded in health care, finance and real estate. All these sectors respond quickly to population growth.

Retail jobs were up 5.5 percent from one year earlier, evidence of the influx of major retail stores to the state's urban areas. Over 80 percent of those new retail jobs were in the metropolitan areas. Nearly two-thirds of the

new retail jobs were in the Boise metropolitan area. One-third of the new jobs in retail trade statewide were in general merchandise stores including Wal-Mart, Costco and Target.

Hotel and restaurant payrolls rose almost 5 percent in the third quarter over third quarter 2006. Hotels had the highest growth rate at 7.8 percent, slightly over 700 new jobs. However, most new jobs were in the restaurant group, where 1,800 were added primarily at full-service restaurants including fast-food outlets.

Construction was clearly ebbing. During second quarter 2007, construction payrolls statewide were down 1 percent from the spring of 2006 and further declined during last summer. Just over 900 jobs have been lost from the July-September 2006 quarter, down 1.6 percent. Construction had been the driving force behind Idaho's dramatic growth from 2003 through 2006. At the same time all of the urban areas in the state reported an increase of nearly 1,100 construction jobs from third quarter 2006. The growth in these areas ranged from 50 jobs in Pocatello to over 300 in the Boise – Nampa area. Much of the third quarter growth was in commercial development in the urban centers. Residential construction has cooled this year. The difference in the state and the urban areas indicates that nearly 2,000 construction jobs have been lost in the 31 rural counties.

State Tables 4, 5 and 6 on pages 7 and 8 compare the changes in the number of jobs in retail trade, leisure and construction sectors for the state and each urban area.

The 3.3 percent growth in local education shows the continuing impact of population growth triggering a need for more schools and more staff even during the summer months when public education typically does not grow. State colleges and universities experienced a decline in jobs during the third quarter, but that is normally due to a decline in the number of student workers. The number of jobs is anticipated to increase again in fourth quarter.

Finance and real estate posted a 4.3 percent increase from the third quarter of 2006. But there was a decline in real estate jobs from the spring to the summer quarters this year as the slowing housing market began to have an impact on the number of agents. This sector will most likely continue experiencing a slowdown in job growth over the next quarter. While there was a significant increase in home construction and sales in 2006, a sluggish market and mortgage foreclosure problems have been influencing this sector's 2007 growth. While it is still adding new jobs, it's at a much slower rate.

Health care jobs rose over 3 percent with the strongest growth in hospitals, which saw an increase of 1,300 jobs from third quarter 2006.

Job losses in manufacturing from third quarter 2006 topped 2,100, a 3.2 percent decrease. Nearly 900 jobs

were cut in computer manufacturing as a result of a restructuring move at Micron Technology Inc. Food manufacturing saw a loss of 700 jobs primarily due to the industry's seasonal routine of reducing staff to do maintenance between processing last year's crop and working on the new harvest. This normal event does not reflect an economic slowdown.

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS PICKING UP IN 2007

While the unemployment rate was at record lows this summer, claims for unemployment benefits during third quarter 2007 were running 11 percent ahead of the same period in 2006.

Boise, Twin Falls, Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls all posted job increases greater than the statewide average. Pocatello was slightly under the average, and Lewiston was significantly lower. See State Table 7 on page 8 for the details.

With the vast majority of the new jobs created in urban Idaho, Boise was the leader. Nonfarm jobs were up 3.7 percent, just over 10,000. The largest percentage growth was in retail trade, especially the non-department store smaller retail national chain outlets. Health care and local education were also significant contributors to the job growth.

The highest urban growth occurred in the Twin Falls-Jerome Micropolitan Statistical Area at 4.3 percent. The largest percentage increase was in transportation and warehousing at 12.9 percent, or 232 jobs. Manufactur-

ing added 407 jobs, health care 328 and education 265.

Coeur d'Alene's growth was in mining and retail trade. Mining posted the largest percentage growth while retail trade and leisure and hospitality reported the largest number of additional jobs.

Idaho Falls' growth rate of 2.8 percent reflects job increases in the education and health care sector of 6.6 percent and 7.9 percent in the professional and business services sector. Each added over 300 jobs.

Pocatello saw the professional and business services sector grow 4.7 percent, or 253 jobs. Education and health care increased 6.9 percent, 222 jobs, and manufacturing and finance each added more than 150 jobs.

Lewiston, which has continued to struggle throughout the post-recession expansion enjoyed by the rest of the state, reported only a fractional increase in nonfarm jobs. A 2.5 percent increase in construction jobs, primarily on commercial projects, and modest job growth in the trade, transportation, health care, private education and hospitality sectors barely offset job losses in manufacturing, public education and government administration.

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State Table 1: September 2007 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to September 2006 data

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Sept 2007				Sept 2006			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	769,725	17,868	2.3	751,857	752,929	24,980	3.3	727,949
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	203,099	4,419	2.2	198,680	197,737	5,002	2.5	192,736
ADAMS	2,025	75	3.7	1,951	2,164	148	6.9	2,015
BANNOCK (8)	43,113	927	2.1	42,186	41,797	1,446	3.5	40,350
BEAR LAKE	3,147	68	2.2	3,078	3,211	86	2.7	3,126
BENEWAH	4,427	193	4.4	4,234	4,460	337	7.6	4,123
BINGHAM	21,359	476	2.2	20,883	21,102	584	2.8	20,518
BLAINE (5)	14,322	251	1.8	14,071	14,610	418	2.9	14,192
BOISE (1)	3,942	80	2.0	3,861	4,023	117	2.9	3,906
BONNER	21,265	566	2.7	20,700	21,036	919	4.4	20,117
BONNEVILLE (6)	49,037	893	1.8	48,144	46,230	1,107	2.4	45,123
BOUNDARY	4,284	185	4.3	4,098	4,437	346	7.8	4,091
BUTTE	1,160	25	2.2	1,134	1,198	45	3.7	1,153
CAMAS (5)	628	14	2.2	615	637	28	4.4	609
CANYON (1)	84,834	2,122	2.5	82,713	83,200	2,951	3.5	80,250
CARIBOU	3,548	81	2.3	3,466	3,515	128	3.6	3,388
CASSIA (2)	10,153	275	2.7	9,878	10,582	340	3.2	10,242

State Table 1 continued on page 5.

State Table 1 (cont)

Seasonally Adjusted Data					Sept 2007				Sept 2006			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
CLARK	560	11	2.0	549	488	20	4.0	469				
CLEARWATER	3,304	180	5.4	3,124	3,391	318	9.4	3,073				
CUSTER	2,383	69	2.9	2,313	2,524	95	3.7	2,429				
ELMORE	10,969	357	3.3	10,612	10,909	483	4.4	10,426				
FRANKLIN	6,820	95	1.4	6,725	6,436	172	2.7	6,264				
FREMONT (9)	6,411	171	2.7	6,239	5,442	159	2.9	5,283				
GEM (1)	7,742	177	2.3	7,565	7,439	270	3.6	7,169				
GOODING	8,729	138	1.6	8,591	8,763	232	2.6	8,531				
IDAHO	7,133	251	3.5	6,881	7,239	466	6.4	6,773				
JEFFERSON (6)	10,786	239	2.2	10,547	10,301	264	2.6	10,037				
JEROME (10)	10,567	214	2.0	10,354	10,443	296	2.8	10,147				
KOOTENAI (3)	71,095	1,880	2.6	69,215	69,470	2,449	3.5	67,021				
LATAH	18,052	336	1.9	17,716	18,100	724	4.0	17,376				
LEMHI	3,806	137	3.6	3,669	4,077	215	5.3	3,863				
LEWIS (4)	1,775	37	2.1	1,738	1,779	68	3.8	1,711				
LINCOLN	2,493	67	2.7	2,426	2,658	107	4.0	2,551				
MADISON (9)	15,817	275	1.7	15,541	14,331	303	2.1	14,028				
MINIDOKA (2)	9,484	296	3.1	9,188	9,875	353	3.6	9,521				
NEZ PERCE (7)	19,381	455	2.3	18,926	19,071	809	4.2	18,263				
ONEIDA	2,348	38	1.6	2,310	2,276	56	2.5	2,220				
OWYHEE (1)	5,127	78	1.5	5,049	4,894	128	2.6	4,766				
PAYETTE	10,852	318	2.9	10,533	10,145	605	6.0	9,539				
POWER (8)	4,008	94	2.3	3,914	3,557	151	4.2	3,406				
SHOSHONE	5,685	215	3.8	5,470	5,766	444	7.7	5,322				
TETON	4,459	77	1.7	4,382	4,567	115	2.5	4,452				
TWIN FALLS (10)	39,389	727	1.8	38,661	39,074	1,211	3.1	37,863				
VALLEY	5,070	154	3.0	4,916	4,992	204	4.1	4,788				
WASHINGTON	5,263	130	2.5	5,133	5,076	264	5.2	4,812				
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,555	458	4.3	10,097	10,228	484	4.7	9,744				
LABOR MARKET AREAS												
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	304,745	6,877	2.3	297,868	297,293	8,467	2.8	288,826				
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,637	571	2.9	19,066	20,457	693	3.4	19,763				
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	71,095	1,880	2.6	69,215	69,470	2,449	3.5	67,021				
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	8,908	289	3.2	8,620	9,018	534	5.9	8,484				
HAILEY SLMA (5)	14,951	265	1.8	14,686	15,248	446	2.9	14,802				
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	59,823	1,132	1.9	58,691	56,530	1,371	2.4	55,160				
LEWISTON MSA (7)	29,936	912	3.0	29,023	29,299	1,293	4.4	28,007				
POCATELLO MSA (8)	47,121	1,021	2.2	46,100	45,353	1,597	3.5	43,756				
REXBURG MicSA (9)	22,227	447	2.0	21,780	19,773	462	2.3	19,311				
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	49,956	941	1.9	49,015	49,517	1,506	3.0	48,010				
CITIES												
BOISE	118,068	2,090	1.8	115,978	124,913	3,385	2.7	121,528				
CALDWELL	17,340	399	2.3	16,941	15,359	589	3.8	14,770				
COEUR D' ALENE	22,668	497	2.2	22,170	22,148	785	3.5	21,362				
IDAHO FALLS	28,077	393	1.4	27,684	28,397	730	2.6	27,667				
LEWISTON	16,074	329	2.0	15,745	15,781	639	4.1	15,142				
MERIDIAN	29,928	547	1.8	29,381	21,693	385	1.8	21,307				
NAMPA	37,147	858	2.3	36,289	32,213	1,239	3.8	30,974				
POCATELLO	29,449	512	1.7	28,938	28,572	851	3.0	27,721				
TWIN FALLS	21,169	368	1.7	20,801	20,420	637	3.1	19,783				
United States*	153,464	7,207	4.7	146,257	151,818	6,912	4.6	144,906				

* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs

State Table 3: Comparison of 3rd Quarter Nonfarm Change, State of Idaho

BY PLACE OF WORK	3rd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2007	Percent Change	Numeric Change
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	650,646	664,466	2.1	13,820
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	128,056	125,312	-2.1	-2,744
Natural Resources & Mining	4,742	5,039	6.3	297
Logging	2,124	2,004	-5.6	-120
Mining	2,617	3,034	15.9	417
Metal Ore Mining	819	969	18.3	150
Construction	56,240	55,323	-1.6	-917
Manufacturing	67,074	64,950	-3.2	-2,124
Durable Goods	43,421	42,220	-2.8	-1,202
Wood Product Manufacturing	8,328	8,038	-3.5	-289
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,639	2,506	-5.0	-133
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,710	1,629	-4.8	-81
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,978	3,840	-3.5	-139
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,443	4,761	7.1	318
Machinery Manufacturing	2,899	2,922	0.8	23
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,771	15,917	-5.1	-854
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,278	3,622	10.5	344
Other Durable Goods	7,702	6,959	-9.6	-743
Nondurable Goods	23,653	22,730	-3.9	-922
Food Manufacturing	15,012	14,301	-4.7	-711
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,869	7,007	-11.0	-862
Paper Manufacturing	1,646	1,689	2.7	44
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,917	1,889	-1.4	-28
Chemical Manufacturing	2,161	2,247	4.0	86
Other Nondurable Goods	2,917	2,643	-9.4	-275
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	522,590	539,154	3.2	16,564
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	129,103	134,415	4.1	5,312
Trade	108,667	113,879	4.8	5,212
Wholesale Trade	27,087	27,812	2.7	725
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,627	12,756	1.0	129
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,647	11,944	2.5	297
Retail Trade	81,580	86,067	5.5	4,487
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,271	12,742	3.8	470
Building Material and Garden Equipment	10,204	10,194	-0.1	-10
Food & Beverage Stores	12,621	13,202	4.6	581
General Merchandise Stores	16,083	17,711	10.1	1,628
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,436	20,536	0.5	100
Utilities	2,066	2,147	4.0	82
Transportation & Warehousing	18,370	18,389	0.1	19
Rail Transportation	1,273	1,303	2.3	30
Truck Transportation	9,262	9,484	2.4	222
Information	10,723	10,874	1.4	151
Telecommunications	3,807	3,889	2.2	82
Financial Activities	32,353	33,735	4.3	1,381
Finance & Insurance	23,185	24,072	3.8	887
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,168	9,663	5.4	495
Professional & Business Services	83,893	87,556	4.4	3,663
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	33,247	34,925	5.0	1,678
Scientific Research & Development	7,641	7,691	0.7	50
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,766	7,655	-1.4	-110
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	42,881	44,976	4.9	2,096
Administrative & Support Services	41,454	43,376	4.6	1,923
Educational & Health Services	70,751	72,288	2.2	1,537
Educational Services	7,187	6,671	-7.2	-516
Health Care & Social Assistance	63,563	65,617	3.2	2,053
Hospitals	15,175	16,482	8.6	1,306
Leisure & Hospitality	63,391	66,446	4.8	3,055
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,743	10,265	5.4	522
Accommodation & Food Services	53,647	56,181	4.7	2,533
Accommodation	9,168	9,886	7.8	718
Food Services & Drinking Places	44,479	46,294	4.1	1,815
Other Services	19,565	19,392	-0.9	-173
Total Government	112,811	114,449	1.5	1,638
Federal Government	14,117	13,796	-2.3	-321
State & Local Government	98,693	100,647	2.0	1,954
State Government	28,575	28,552	-0.1	-23
State Government Education	12,995	12,049	-7.3	-946
State Government Administration	15,580	16,503	5.9	923
Local Government	70,118	72,100	2.8	1,982
Local Government Education	34,630	35,418	2.3	788
Local Government Administration	32,200	33,248	3.3	1,048
Local Government Tribes	3,287	3,433	4.4	146

State Tables — 3rd Quarter Job Growth Comparisons

State Table 2: Comparison of Job Growth Rates in the 3rd Quarter in Idaho, U.S. and Neighboring States

Percent Change from Prior Year	Idaho	US	Montana	Nevada	Oregon	Utah	Washington	Wyoming
1999-2000	3.8	2.1	1.8	4.8	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.4
2000-2001	1.1	-0.2	0.7	2.1	-0.7	0.3	-0.8	2.8
2001-2002	0.1	-1.1	1.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.9	-1.3	0.9
2002-2003	0.4	-0.3	1.2	3.5	-1.3	0.2	0.0	1.1
2003-2004	3.3	1.4	2.9	6.3	3.0	3.2	1.8	1.7
2004-2005	4.2	1.9	2.4	6.2	2.6	4.3	2.9	3.8
2005-2006	4.4	1.7	2.8	4.2	3.2	4.8	2.9	4.6
2006-2007	2.4	1.3	3.3	1.6	0.9	4.5	2.2	3.4
3rd Qtr 07 Rank	8		3	21	36	1	11	2

State Table 4: Distribution of Retail Jobs by Urban Area, 3rd Quarter 2006 Compared to 3rd Quarter 2007

	3rd Qtr 2006	3rd Qtr 2007	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent of Total Change
Boise City - Nampa MSA	32,557	35,417	8.8%	2,861	63.8%
Coeur d'Alene MSA	8,096	8,429	4.1%	333	7.4%
Idaho Falls MSA	7,649	7,862	2.8%	214	4.8%
Lewiston MSA	3,570	3,593	0.6%	23	0.5%
Pocatello MSA	4,604	4,670	1.4%	65	1.5%
Twin Falls - Jerome MicSA	5,828	6,029	3.4%	200	4.5%
Total Nonfarm Jobs of Urban Area	62,304	66,000	5.9%	3,696	82.4%
State of Idaho	81,580	86,067	5.5%	4,487	100.0%

State Table 5: Distribution of Leisure and Hospitality Jobs by Urban Area, 3rd Quarter 2006 Compared to 3rd Quarter 2007

Geographic Area	3rd Qtr 2006	3rd Qtr 2007	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent of Total Change
Boise City - Nampa MSA	24,085	24,484	1.7%	399	13.1%
Coeur d'Alene MSA	8,409	8,916	6.0%	507	16.6%
Idaho Falls MSA	4,702	4,629	-1.6%	-73	-2.4%
Lewiston MSA	2,576	2,611	1.4%	35	1.1%
Pocatello MSA	3,661	3,434	-6.2%	-227	-7.4%
Twin Falls - Jerome MicSA	3,237	3,332	2.9%	95	3.1%
Total Nonfarm Jobs of Urban Area	46,671	47,406	1.6%	735	24.1%
State of Idaho	63,391	66,446	4.8%	3,055	100.0%

State Tables — 3rd Quarter Job Growth Comparisons (continued from page 7)

State Table 6: Distribution of Construction Jobs by Urban Area, 3rd Quarter 2006 Compared to 3rd Quarter 2007

	3rd Qtr 2006	3rd Qtr 2007	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent of Total Change
Boise City - Nampa MSA	25,428	25,771	1.3%	342	-37.3%
Coeur d'Alene MSA	6,207	6,460	4.1%	253	-27.6%
Idaho Falls MSA	4,940	5,076	2.8%	136	-14.8%
Lewiston MSA	1,527	1,676	9.8%	149	-16.2%
Pocatello MSA	2,113	2,160	2.2%	47	-5.1%
Twin Falls - Jerome MicSA	2,468	2,633	6.7%	165	-18.0%
Total Nonfarm Jobs of Urban Area	42,683	43,776	2.6%	1,093	-119.2%
State of Idaho	56,240	55,323	-1.6%	-917	100.0%

State Table 7: Distribution of Nonfarm Jobs by Urban Area, 3rd Quarter 2006, 2007 Compared

Geographical Regions	3rd Qtr 2006	3rd Qtr 2007	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent of Total Change
Boise City - Nampa MSA	271,163	281,328	3.7%	10,165	73.6%
Coeur d'Alene MSA	56,891	58,728	3.2%	1,837	13.3%
Idaho Falls MSA	50,890	52,469	3.1%	1,579	11.4%
Lewiston MSA	27,311	27,563	0.9%	252	1.8%
Pocatello MSA	39,150	39,658	1.3%	508	3.7%
Twin Falls - Jerome MicSA	39,693	41,396	4.3%	1,703	12.3%
Total Nonfarm Jobs of Urban Area	485,098	501,143	3.3%	16,045	100.3%
State of Idaho	650,646	664,466	2.1%	13,820	100.0%

State Table 8: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	668,100	663,600	653,500	0.7	2.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	124,900	125,800	127,600	-0.7	-2.1
<i>Natural Resources & Mining</i>	5,100	5,100	4,800	0.0	6.3
Logging	2,000	2,000	2,100	0.0	-4.8
Mining	3,100	3,100	2,700	0.0	14.8
Metal Ore Mining	1,000	1,000	800	0.0	25.0
<i>Construction</i>	55,000	55,800	55,700	-1.4	-1.3
<i>Manufacturing</i>	64,800	64,900	67,100	-0.2	-3.4
Durable Goods	41,800	42,100	43,300	-0.7	-3.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	8,000	8,000	8,200	0.0	-2.4
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,500	2,500	2,600	0.0	-3.8
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,800	3,800	3,900	0.0	-2.6
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,800	4,800	4,500	0.0	6.7
Machinery Manufacturing	2,900	2,800	2,900	3.6	0.0
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	15,600	15,700	16,800	-0.6	-7.1
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,600	3,600	3,300	0.0	9.1
Other Durable Goods	6,900	7,200	7,600	-4.2	-9.2
Nondurable Goods	23,000	22,800	23,800	0.9	-3.4
Food Manufacturing	14,500	14,300	15,300	1.4	-5.2
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,100	7,100	7,900	0.0	-10.1
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,600	0.0	6.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	2,300	2,200	2,100	4.5	9.5
Other Nondurable Goods	2,600	2,700	2,900	-3.7	-10.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	543,200	537,800	525,900	1.0	3.3
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	134,500	134,600	129,700	-0.1	3.7
Trade	114,000	114,100	109,100	-0.1	4.5
Wholesale Trade	27,900	27,700	27,200	0.7	2.6
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,800	12,700	12,600	0.8	1.6
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,900	12,000	11,800	-0.8	0.8
Retail Trade	86,100	86,400	81,900	-0.3	5.1
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,900	12,700	12,300	1.6	4.9
Building Material and Garden Equipment	10,000	10,200	9,900	-2.0	1.0
Food & Beverage Stores	13,300	13,200	12,600	0.8	5.6
General Merchandise Stores	17,600	17,700	16,500	-0.6	6.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,500	20,500	20,600	0.0	-0.5
Utilities	2,100	2,200	2,100	-4.5	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,400	18,300	18,500	0.5	-0.5
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,500	9,500	9,400	0.0	1.1
<i>Information</i>	10,800	10,900	10,600	-0.9	1.9
Telecommunications	3,900	3,900	3,800	0.0	2.6
<i>Financial Activities</i>	33,600	33,800	32,300	-0.6	4.0
Finance & Insurance	24,000	24,100	23,200	-0.4	3.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,600	9,700	9,100	-1.0	5.5
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	87,600	87,700	83,900	-0.1	4.4
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	35,000	35,000	33,200	0.0	5.4
Scientific Research & Development	7,700	7,700	7,700	0.0	0.0
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,600	7,600	7,800	0.0	-2.6
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	45,000	45,100	42,900	-0.2	4.9
Administrative & Support Services	43,400	43,500	41,500	-0.2	4.6
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	73,200	71,900	71,700	1.8	2.1
Educational Services	7,400	6,300	7,900	17.5	-6.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	65,800	65,600	63,800	0.3	3.1
Hospitals	16,600	16,500	15,300	0.6	8.5
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	65,000	67,500	62,300	-3.7	4.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,600	10,600	9,000	-9.4	6.7
Accommodation & Food Services	55,400	56,900	53,300	-2.6	3.9
Accommodation	9,400	10,200	8,800	-7.8	6.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	46,000	46,700	44,500	-1.5	3.4
<i>Other Services</i>	19,100	19,500	19,300	-2.1	-1.0
Total Government	119,400	111,900	116,100	6.7	2.8
Federal Government	13,400	14,000	13,800	-4.3	-2.9
State & Local Government	106,000	97,900	102,300	8.3	3.6
State Government	30,200	27,700	29,400	9.0	2.7
State Government Education	13,000	11,400	13,900	14.0	-6.5
State Government Administration	17,200	16,300	15,500	5.5	11.0
Local Government	75,800	70,200	72,900	8.0	4.0
Local Government Education	39,200	33,500	37,700	17.0	4.0
Local Government Administration	33,200	33,200	32,000	0.0	3.8
Local Government Tribes	3,400	3,500	3,200	-2.9	6.3

*Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State Table 9: Economic Indicators

	Sep 2007	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	769,800	758,400	752,900	1.5	2.2
Unemployment	17,900	17,900	25,000	0.0	-28.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.4	3.3		
Total Employment	751,900	740,500	727,900	1.5	3.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	768,600	763,400	750,900	0.7	2.4
Unemployment	12,800	15,300	19,800	-16.3	-35.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	1.7	2.0	2.6		
Total Employment	755,800	748,100	731,100	1.0	3.4
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	4.7	4.6	4.6		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	203.9	203.2	198.4	0.3	2.8
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	208.5	207.9	202.9	0.3	2.8
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	48,920	49,030	49,200	-0.2	-0.6
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	350	360	2.9	0.0
Hired Workers	38,820	38,940	39,100	-0.3	-0.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	4,512	5,663	3,872	-20.3	16.5
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	31,835	36,004	23,860	-11.6	33.4
<i>Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾</i>					
Weeks Compensated	25,613	28,761	18,439	-10.9	38.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$6,355,293	\$6,931,313	\$4,180,758	-8.3	52.0
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$248.13	\$241.00	\$226.73	3.0	9.4
Covered Employers	51,222	50,938	48,915	0.6	4.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$119,326,737	\$117,126,153	\$113,520,984	1.9	5.1

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities



Panhandle News

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Growth continues to be strong in the Coeur d'Alene Metropolitan Statistical Area, though not at the high speeds of 2004 and 2005. But it is likely growth will slow further in the next few months amid more dark clouds on the national economy's horizon, a further slowdown in the housing market and a tight labor supply curtailing some business expansion.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the metro area grew a solid 3 percent between September 2006 and September 2007 as shown in Panhandle Table 1.

The natural resources and mining sectors added 110 jobs even though logging was slightly depressed. High silver and gold prices have increased employment at the corporate headquarters of Hecla, Coeur d'Alene Mining and three smaller mining companies. Gravel pits remain busy with substantial construction activity including road projects.

Although residential construction has slowed slightly, commercial construction this September was up considerably from a year ago. Cabela's, the Coeur d'Alene Chamber and the Coeur d'Alene Library projects were coming to an end, but the Salvation Army's Kroc community center, the Hampton Inn at Riverstone, the new federal building in Coeur d'Alene, the Biopol and Berg plants in Post Falls and the Post Falls city hall were among projects recently started.

Job losses at lumber mills led to a drop in manufacturing employment. With framing lumber prices falling to a very low \$254 per thousand board feet by Nov. 2, wood products manufacturing is likely to see more job losses — by attrition, temporary shutdowns and permanent layoffs. The depressed lumber prices reflect the large drop in U.S. housing starts over the last two years. Recent substantial increases in the

Panhandle Table 1: Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment Kootenai County

	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,100	70,740	69,470	0.5	2.3
Unemployed	1,880	1,650	2,450	13.9	-23.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6	2.3	3.5		
Total Employment	69,220	69,090	67,020	0.2	3.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,810	71,940	69,690	-0.2	3.0
Unemployed	1,230	1,310	1,890	-6.1	-34.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.7	1.8	2.7		
Total Employment	70,580	70,630	67,800	-0.1	4.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	58,590	58,810	56,860	-0.4	3.0
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	11,760	11,850	11,590	-0.8	1.5
Natural Resources & Mining	620	620	510	0.0	21.6
Construction	6,390	6,500	6,250	-1.7	2.2
Manufacturing	4,750	4,730	4,830	0.4	-1.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	940	950	1,030	-1.1	-8.7
Other Manufacturing	3,810	3,780	3,800	0.8	0.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	46,830	46,960	45,270	-0.3	3.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,100	11,170	10,840	-0.6	2.4
Wholesale Trade	1,570	1,590	1,520	-1.3	3.3
Retail Trade	8,350	8,400	8,150	-0.6	2.5
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,180	1,180	1,170	0.0	0.9
Information	920	910	970	1.1	-5.2
Financial Activities	3,170	3,190	3,020	-0.6	5.0
Professional & Business Services	6,720	6,650	6,210	1.1	8.2
Educational & Health Services	5,600	5,530	5,340	1.3	4.9
Leisure & Hospitality	8,300	8,970	8,030	-7.5	3.4
Other Services	1,560	1,630	1,490	-4.3	4.7
Government Education	3,410	2,810	3,390	21.4	0.6
Government Administration	5,210	5,260	5,220	-1.0	-0.2
Government Tribes	840	840	760	0.0	10.5

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

value of both the Canadian dollar and the Euro could soon put more wind under the sails of manufacturing as long as U.S. consumers don't become too discouraged by the mortgage crisis and higher energy prices. Kootenai County manufactures a wide variety of products including Kimball's Flexcel furniture and Buck Knives in Post Falls; Advanced Input System's keyboards and control panels, Accurate Molded Plastics, Interstate Concrete & Asphalt and Century Publishing in Coeur d'Alene; Stimson Lumber's mills in Coeur d'Alene and Hauser and Transtector's surge depression devices in Hayden.

A growing population, rising incomes and increased tourism pushed retail jobs up by 200 and added hundreds of service jobs. The 330

jobs created by the new Cabela's outdoors store and Kohl's department store in Coeur d'Alene will show up in the October and November numbers.

Reduced shipments by the wood products industry meant 50 fewer jobs in trucking. Other transportation industries added a few workers in response to the growth in population and tourism. Utilities employment has not grown significantly in many years. Technology has allowed utilities to handle growing customer loads with the same number of workers.

Increased employment at banks, credit unions and insurance companies during the past year more than offset the decrease in real estate and title insurance jobs, adding 150 new jobs in financial activities for September. Independent banks and credit unions have been adding branches in growing Kootenai County. More than half of the new financial sector jobs came at the U.S. Bank customer service center in Coeur d'Alene. Real estate agents are considered self-employed so they are not included in payroll jobs, and those sectors lost most of their jobs before September 2006.

The Coeur d'Alene metropolitan area continues to draw more tourists with its growing reputation for nearby bicycling trails, golf courses and ski areas and the expansion of Silverwood Theme Park's water park. The influx of retirees and people building second homes over the last five years has increased demand at restaurants and amusement properties. The net result was

a 270-job gain in leisure and hospitality businesses. The employment numbers in that sector shown in Table 1 are only private-sector employees. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe's casino, hotel and golf course in Worley employs about 840 people, whose jobs are counted in the local government sector. The casino continues to increase its offerings, and the golf course has earned a good reputation, adding a total of 80 jobs over the last 12 months.

With businesses in the Panhandle experiencing significant growth in recent years, employment has expanded in a wide variety of professional and business services. Between the first quarter of 2005 and the first quarter of 2007, the number of private-sector employers in the Coeur d'Alene metro area grew 10.3 percent to 4,965. Business-to-business services accounted for nearly one in every five new employers in areas like janitorial services, business management, corporate headquarters, computer system design, architecture, engineering, waste management, legal services, security, advertising and temporary employment services.

The Coeur d'Alene metro area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September was below 3 percent for the sixth straight month. While the civilian labor force grew 2.3 percent from September 2006, the number of workers with jobs grew even faster at 3.3 percent, driving the unemployment rate down nine-tenths to 2.6 percent. Unemployment rates in the other four

Economic Outlook Presentations Scheduled for Panhandle

In November and December, Idaho Department of Labor Regional Economist Kathryn Tacke will be making presentations about the economic outlook of Panhandle counties—looking back at their economic history, determining where they are today and speculating about where they will head in the next couple of years. The schedule and locations are listed below.

Benewah County Outlook*

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Noon to 1 p.m.

St. Maries Chamber of Commerce

Monthly luncheon meeting

Eagles Lodge in St. Maries

Cost is \$7 and includes lunch.

The Chamber will accept reservations for the lunch until Nov. 9 by calling (208) 245-2518.

Bonner County Outlook

Thursday, Nov. 15

Idaho Department of Labor

2101 W. Pine, Sandpoint

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Boundary County Outlook

Tuesday, Nov. 27

10:30 a.m. to Noon

Kootenai River Inn

6541 Main St., Bonners Ferry

Kootenai County Outlook

Friday, Nov. 30

10:30 a.m. to Noon

Idaho Department of Labor

1221 W. Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene

Shoshone County Outlook

Wednesday, Dec. 5

10:30 a.m. to Noon

Idaho Department of Labor

35 Wildcat Way, Kellogg

Space is limited, so please reserve a space soon.

E-mail: Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov

Phone: Kathryn Tacke at (208) 769-1558 ext. 3984

Indicate which presentation you want to attend, your e-mail address and phone number.

**To reserve space at the St. Maries Chamber of Commerce luncheon, call (208) 245-2518.*

Panhandle counties also have fallen to historic lows, creating a jobseeker's market.

Given the tight labor supply, employers are experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining workers. They are raising wages, rethinking benefits, attempting to offer more flexibility in work schedules and improving the work environment. Many are even offering bonuses to newly recruited workers or to workers who refer new employees.

While all regions in Idaho are reporting some work force availability problems, the upward wage pressure seems especially intense in the Coeur d'Alene area. The average wage paid by private-sector employers in the metropolitan area rose 4.8 percent from the first quarter of 2006 to the first quarter of 2007 compared to 3.1 percent statewide. Today, most fast food outlets in the metro area pay starting wages between \$8 and \$9 an hour compared to less than \$8 an hour elsewhere in Idaho.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BENEWAH COUNTY

- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe won a \$400 million, five-year contract to make fuel bladders for the U.S. Army. Berg Integrated Systems, which the tribe moved to Plummer after buying a majority interest last year, will make 210,000-gallon bladders for diesel and aircraft fuel. When it starts production in early 2008, it will hire 40 more workers, paying about \$15 an hour and bringing total employment to 70. North Idaho College, which designs and delivers customized training to employers in the Panhandle, will train Berg's new workers for the Plummer plant. Coeur d'Alene Tribal Chairman Chief Allan credited Jobs Plus, the Kootenai County economic development organization, with helping make the contract a reality.
- The Panhandle Health District recently broke ground on its new 9,500-square-foot building in St. Maries. Panhandle Health expects to move into the \$2 million, two-story building next fall. The district plans to sell its current building, which is half the size.

BONNER COUNTY

- Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint recently landed on Skiing Magazine's list of the 25 top ski resorts. It ranked 21st in a field of more than 500 ski areas. For the 2007-2008 ski season, the mountain will replace one of the original chairlifts, add another and increase skier capacity by nearly one-third, getting skiers to the runs quicker. Other improvements for skiers and snowboarders include

a new ski-check area, heated patio and more grooming equipment. With a 2,400-foot vertical drop and 2,900 acres of skiable terrain, the Schweitzer resort is actually larger than well-known ski destinations like Sun Valley in Idaho and Breckenridge and Beaver Creek in Colorado.

- Just one year after the North Idaho College moved its Bonner County center from downtown Sandpoint to a larger space in the Bonner Mall in Ponderay, the facility is overcrowded. This fall, the center had students taking 349 class periods compared to 230 class periods a year ago.
- A California developer has broken ground on a planned \$28 million project at the Sandpoint Airport that will include "fly-in" residences as well as commercial and aviation services buildings. SilverWing at Sandpoint, a 40-duplex hangar project, will be built immediately west of the Sandpoint Airport. Each duplex could contain two airplane hangars or a hangar and dwelling unit. The dwelling units, which will range from 2,100 square feet to 4,000 square feet, will be marketed as second homes for aircraft owners. The development, which will be heavily landscaped and offer views of the Selkirk Mountains, will include a community center with a pool, spa, workout equipment and an outdoor kitchen. SilverWing also will include two commercial buildings, totaling 32,000 square feet. The developer was attracted to Sandpoint Airport because it is within minutes of Schweitzer Mountain Resort, Lake Pend Oreille and the city of Sandpoint. The airport has a 5,500-foot runway that can accommodate large private jets.
- Downward pressures on prices and reduced customer traffic are affecting many retailers, including Sandpoint's Coldwater Creek. The national retailer of women's apparel, jewelry, gifts and accessories has seen its stock price fall sharply. This has affected the assets of the Wild Rose Foundation, a nonprofit organization established by Coldwater founder Dennis Pence. Wild Rose has been forced to indefinitely postpone its plans to build a University of Idaho campus in Sandpoint. Wild Rose had originally expected classes to start in the fall of 2009.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- The North Idaho College center in Bonners Ferry completed a major remodel in October. Three rooms were added to the center, which now offers interactive video conferencing, allowing students in Bonners Ferry and instructors in Coeur d'Alene to see and talk with one another. The new computer

lab includes a broadband connection to the college's main Coeur d'Alene campus, speeding up Internet classes. The Idaho Department of Administration's public works division paid for most of the remodel, and the Kootenai Tribe donated \$20,000. The Bonners Ferry Center, which opened a year ago, currently serves 136 students from Boundary County and is offering eight classes this fall. Next spring, North Idaho College will expand its course offerings, including basic computer classes.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Cabela's opened its 125,000-square-foot destination sporting goods store in Post Falls on Nov. 9. The company has hired 250 employees for the store, which features extensive nature exhibits and huge aquariums. The store's centerpiece will be a 28-foot-tall indoor mountain complete with a rushing stream and waterfall. The store, one of 22 nationwide, is expected to be a tourist attraction.
- A Barnes & Noble bookstore and a Red Robin restaurant will locate in the Coeur d'Alene Riverstone development along the Spokane River as it flows into Lake Coeur d'Alene. The 28,000-square-foot bookstore, slated to open next July near the Regal Cinema, will stock close to 200,000 book, music, DVD and magazine titles and include a cafe. Wi-Fi service will allow customers to use their laptop computers and personal digital assistants anywhere in the store or café. The Red Robin, which serves gourmet burgers, will be just west of the new Hampton Inn. When it opens next spring, it will hire more than 80 people.
- Integrated Ideas and Technologies, a Coeur d'Alene precision metal work company, is building a 23,000-square-foot facility. After moving into the new building in March, the company plans to hire 10 more workers, bringing its payroll to 38. Jobs Plus recruited the company to the area from California 10 years ago when it had just 11 employees.
- Fresenius Medical Care plans to open a 6,400-square-foot kidney dialysis center in the Coeur d'Alene Tech Center in December and employ 18. Fresenius, headquartered in Germany, has more than 1,600 dialysis clinics around the world.
- Coeur d'Alene-based North Idaho College's enrollment increased 19 to set a record at 4,650 students this fall. The college's dual credit or WINGS program is experiencing most of the enrollment growth. This program allows high school juniors and seniors to enroll at the school for a head start on college. They earn high school and college credit for the courses, paying just \$60 per credit rather

than \$140. North Idaho College has 450 dual credit students enrolled in the WINGS program including 25 from Sandpoint High School and three each from Bonners Ferry and Clark Fork high schools.

- Make Wine, Make Beer, which recently opened on Fourth Street in Coeur d'Alene, has all the ingredients and equipment needed for customers to make wine or beer in a clean and comfortable environment.
- The Shops at the Coeur d'Alene Resort Plaza are once again full. Runway, a 1,900-square-foot women's clothing boutique, opened in October. As its name suggests, the boutique offers the latest designs right off fashion show runways.
- Cedar Mountain Supply of Coeur d'Alene was recently awarded a multiyear purchase order from the Idaho National Laboratory in southeastern Idaho. Cedar Mountain will provide supplies and equipment to the lab. Since 1993, Cedar Mountain has provided laboratory supplies, telecommunications and security for Department of Energy sites across the country. Cedar Mountain employs four people.
- Coeur d'Alene Computer Clinic, which opened in October, focuses on customer service. In addition to selling, upgrading, assembling, repairing and recycling computers, the clinic provides classes for small groups as well as one-on-one instruction.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Mine Fabrication in Kellogg manufactures mining equipment, including ore cars, loading chutes, ladders and parts for jackleg drills. In addition, it is the only manufacturer of Aero-Lifts, steel structures designed to stack small aircraft on top of each other to optimize storage space in flight hangars. They also can be used to lift airplanes to a comfortable level for maintenance work. Mine Fab, which recently produced its 320th lift, employs 15 people.
- The Route of the Hiawatha, a trail along an old Milwaukee Railroad track extending from the Silver Valley through Lookout Pass into Montana, hosted a record number of bicyclists — over 24,000 — this summer. The trail's 10th season started Memorial Day weekend and ended Oct. 7. Along with the 79-mile Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, running from the Silver Valley through Harrison on Lake Coeur d'Alene to Plummer, the Route of the Hiawatha attracts bicyclists from all over the U.S. This year saw a significant increase in international visitors.

(Continued on page 17)



North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Lewiston Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September decreased to 3 percent from the August rate of 3.2 percent, as shown in North Central Idaho Table 1. In September 2006 the rate was 4.4 percent. Nonfarm payroll jobs in September increased by 90 from August. A majority of the new jobs were in the health care sector.

FOCUS ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Besides helping unemployed individuals and families transition from one job to another, unemployment insurance acts as an automatic economic stabilizer. When a business has to lay an employee off, unemployment benefits offset some of the effects of the worker losing a job and, in the case of major layoffs, limits the decline in spending power a community experiences. Unemployment insurance also promotes stability by making it possible for employers to retain workers during the off-season or a short downturn. Many seasonal industries would find it much more difficult to attract and retain employees if their workers could not rely on those weekly benefits to help support them through slack periods. In north central Idaho, \$7.8 million was paid out in benefits for the fiscal year that ended June 30, down \$380,000 from the previous year. For a breakdown of total payments and the number of weekly benefit checks issued in the region for fiscal years 2006 and 2005, see North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 17.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

Evergreen Logging has auctioned its equipment in Kooskia, marking the end of a business that logged exclusively for Clearwater Forest Industries. Both com-

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,930	29,820	29,370	0.4	1.9
Unemployment	910	960	1,290	-5.2	-29.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.2	4.4		
Total Employment	29,020	28,860	28,080	0.6	3.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,660	29,540	28,670	0.4	3.5
Unemployment	760	890	960	-14.6	-20.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6	3.0	3.3		
Total Employment	28,900	28,650	27,710	0.9	4.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	27,560	27,470	27,560	0.3	0.0
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,890	4,920	4,940	-0.6	-1.0
Natural Resources & Mining	220	220	260	0.0	-15.4
Construction	1,640	1,690	1,540	-3.0	6.5
Manufacturing	2,980	3,010	3,140	-1.0	-5.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	550	560	-1.8	-3.6
Paper Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,110	0.0	-0.9
Other Manufacturing	1,340	1,360	1,470	-1.5	-8.8
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,670	22,550	22,620	0.5	0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,470	5,530	5,400	-1.1	1.3
Wholesale Trade	680	670	660	1.5	3.0
Retail Trade	3,560	3,610	3,570	-1.4	-0.3
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,140	1,160	1,080	-1.7	5.6
Information	410	410	430	0.0	-4.7
Financial Activities	2,070	2,100	2,030	-1.4	2.0
Professional & Business Services	1,650	1,640	1,630	0.6	1.2
Education & Health Services	4,510	4,450	4,380	1.3	3.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,570	2,640	2,550	-2.7	0.8
Other Services	1,160	1,180	1,120	-1.7	3.6
Government Education	2,150	1,950	2,300	10.3	-6.5
Government Administration	1,910	1,870	2,100	2.2	-9.0
Government Tribes	760	780	680	-2.6	11.8

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

panies had the same owners. All but about two of the company's 15 employees have found other employment in the weeks since the decision was made to close Evergreen, said Robert Krogh, president of Clearwater Forest Industries. Few young people are entering logging, which creates more opportunities for those skilled in the trade, Krogh said. "The marketplace is so hungry for good, experienced loggers

North Central Idaho Table 2: Unemployment Insurance Payments by Number of Claims and Dollars Paid

Number of Weeks Paid			Dollar Amount Paid			
State Fiscal Year			State Fiscal Year			
County	2007	2006	Change	2007	2006	Change
Clearwater	5,884	6,307	-423	\$1,505,186	\$1,556,609	-\$51,423
Idaho	8,736	9,143	-407	\$2,088,991	\$2,129,697	-\$40,706
Latah	6,635	7,691	-1,056	\$1,703,822	\$1,873,730	-\$169,908
Lewis	552	479	73	\$122,003	\$113,184	\$8,819
Nez Perce	10,282	11,521	-1,239	\$2,394,888	\$2,521,816	-\$126,928
Total North Central Idaho	32,089	35,141	-3,052	\$7,814,890	\$8,195,036	-\$380,146

everybody had a job immediately." The change has made it possible for loggers to work closer to home instead of spending their work weeks in the McCall-New Meadows area, where Evergreen Logging was operating to feed Clearwater Forest Industries' mill near New Meadows, Krogh said. Evergreen Logging was paying room and board for the workers from the Kooskia-Kamiah area, Krogh said, making it "a lot cheaper to hire local loggers." The move has no impact on the mill operations of Clearwater Forest Industries in Kooskia, which employs about 25. The workers run a boiler, dry kilns and planers to finish rough boards and lumber that is trucked to Kooskia from the New Meadows area sawmill. Clearwater Forest Industries employed about 60 in Kooskia until it stopped running a sawmill there in 2006. Krogh said no additional cut-backs will be made to the Kooskia operation. The labor supply in New Meadows is tight because of all the construction surrounding the Tamarack ski resort, Krogh said. "We have a very, very experienced crew (in Kooskia) that gets the job done. We wouldn't want to do anything to upset the applecart."

LATAH COUNTY

- Wheat growers on the Palouse saw below-average yields this season, but record-high prices — above \$10 a bushel — means farmers aren't taking a hit in their pocketbooks. "Do the math," said Joseph R. Anderson, president of the Latah County Grain Producers. The prices "more than made up for" lower yields. Anderson said farmers growing winter wheat in Latah County averaged 75 to 80 bushels per acre compared to the typical 90. The lack of rainfall — four to five inches below normal — contributed to the lower yields. Washington Wheat Commission Vice President Glen Squires said growers in Whitman County averaged 64 bushels per acre, slightly below previous yields. Anderson said most farmers won't benefit from the skyrocketing wheat prices since the majority sold their crops when the prices reached then-record highs of \$6 to \$7 per bushel. "That was kind of a lifetime high in itself," Anderson said. "I didn't believe it

when it hit \$7." Squires said he never could have predicted the prices would reach \$10 a bushel, and with world supply still low because of drought conditions in other wheat-growing areas like Australia, the trend should continue. With reports of worsening conditions in Australia, Squires said all indications point to prices continuing to increase. Squires said the record-high prices of wheat have been a welcome relief from ever-increasing expenses. The high cost of fuel, fertilizer and other essentials continually eats away at profits, and farmers have had a difficult time remaining profitable. Anderson said he expects the price of wheat to have the negative consequence of inflating expenses and land values, and if the past is any indication, expenses won't fall when the price of wheat does.

- During a Moscow Civic Association forum last month, participants encouraged attracting and retaining high-tech companies as a key to Moscow's economic future. Robin Woods, president of Alturas Analytics in Moscow, said 100 percent of her bio-tech business comes from outside Idaho, most of it from the San Francisco Bay Area. Yet she and her partners opted to locate here because of the quality of life. David Alexander, a University of Idaho graduate and chief executive of Ivus Industries in Moscow, said the city is an ideal location for entrepreneurs to tap into a high-tech labor pool available from both the University of Idaho and neighboring Washington State University in Pullman. Judy Brown, an economist and director of the Idaho Center on Budget and Tax Policy, said research shows if a community creates a good living environment, jobs will come. What attracts entrepreneurs and businesses to an area, Brown said, is quality of life, not tax breaks. "Quality of life and the ability to work either from home or near home," she said, "are the two really key things in deciding where people locate those kinds of businesses"

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN (WA.) COUNTIES

- North central Idaho employers, especially those in Lewiston and Moscow, keep a close eye on the minimum wage in the state of Washington. Already the highest in the country, Washington's minimum wage will again increase 14 cents to \$8.07 an hour beginning Jan. 1. The Washington Department of Labor and Industries recalculates the state's minimum wage each year in September to reflect changes in the federal Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers during the 12 months through Aug. 31. The national index covers the cost of goods and services needed for day-to-day living. It increased 1.8 percent during the last 12-month period compared to a 3.9 percent increase during the same period in 2006. That led to a 30-cent increase for 2007.

Washington's minimum wage applies to workers in both agricultural and non-agricultural jobs, although 14- and 15-year-olds may be paid 85 percent of the adult minimum wage. Increases in the minimum wage in Washington usually prompt higher entry-level wages in north central Idaho border communities because employers compete for the same labor pool. The Idaho minimum wage increased to \$5.85 on July 24. It was the first of three 70-cent increases over the next two years. The minimum wage goes to \$6.55 an hour on July 24, 2008, and to \$7.25 an hour on July 24, 2009.

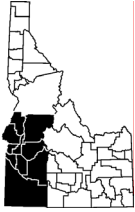
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Panhandle News (continued from Page 14)

- Tattoo artist Paul Beaman opened The Ink Spot in Uptown Kellogg last month. The shop offers free-hand custom tattoos as well as designs from tattoo booklets. He expects to offer piercing soon.
- The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality did complete remediation of another 400 yards in the Silver Valley. Yard remediation within the 21-square-mile area around Smelterville that had the highest contamination of mining waste in the Silver Valley was finally completed this year. The topsoil on many private properties outside the area remains contaminated by lead, arsenic and other heavy metals. The process involves removing soil contaminated by decades of toxic mine waste and replacing it with unpolluted soil. Since the program began in 2002, 1,750 properties have been cleaned. About 200 people work for the program each year, which draws about \$12 million annually from federal funds.
- The federal Superfund's Institutional Controls Program extends this month from the 21-square-mile area around Smelterville into a basin from Mullan to the mouth of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Panhandle

Health District established the program to ensure the barriers separating the 12 inches of clean top soil and the underlying contaminated soil remain intact. By following the program's regulations, contractors are assured their work in contaminated areas does not disturb any barriers, homeowners can remain confident their remediated properties stay that way and banks no longer are wary of doing business on potentially contaminated ground. This will make it easier to sell property, acquire bank financing or float bonds. So far mining companies and the federal government have spent \$200 million to clean the Superfund site in the Silver Valley, which has included cleaning former mining sites, cleaning up mine wastes along the railroad corridor and transforming it to the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and restoring streams and wildlife habitat.

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Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE UPDATE

The Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in September at 2.3 percent. That was six-tenths of a percentage point below a year ago. Over 9,000 more people were working than in September 2006. From August to September, the labor force and total employment both increased by 3,200 as area schools and universities began fall terms, area farms hired seasonal workers for the harvest and firefighters remained on payrolls longer than usual as wildfires persisted. With the unemployment rate holding well below the commonly considered full employment level of 4 percent, employers continue struggling to find workers. Working against them is the fact that wages have not increased enough to attract the additional workers employers want. The cost of living increases over the last several years have made pay scales of 10 years ago too low for today's economy. The area labor market is still a job seeker's market, but the lack of workers

**Southwestern Idaho Table 2: September 2007
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwestern Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Em- ployed
Ada	203,099	4,419	2.2	198,680
Adams	2,025	75	3.7	1,951
Boise	3,942	80	2.0	3,861
Canyon	84,834	2,122	2.5	82,713
Elmore	10,969	357	3.3	10,612
Gem	7,742	177	2.3	7,565
Owyhee	5,127	78	1.5	5,049
Payette	10,852	318	2.9	10,533
Valley	5,070	154	3.0	4,916
Washington	5,263	130	2.5	5,133
Statewide	769,725	17,868	2.3	751,857

Southwestern Idaho Table 1: Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)

	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	304,800	301,600	297,300	1.1	2.5
Unemployment	6,900	6,900	8,500	0.0	-18.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.3	2.9		
Total Employment	297,900	294,700	288,800	1.1	3.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	302,800	301,500	292,300	0.4	3.6
Unemployment	5,200	6,200	7,200	-16.1	-27.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.7	2.1	2.5		
Total Employment	297,600	295,300	285,100	0.8	4.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	282,700	280,100	272,900	0.9	3.6
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	56,400	57,100	57,200	-1.2	-1.4
<i>Natural Resources & Construction</i>	25,800	26,200	25,500	-1.5	1.2
Construction	25,400	25,800	25,200	-1.6	0.8
<i>Manufacturing</i>	30,600	30,900	31,700	-1.0	-3.5
Durable Goods	24,600	24,900	25,500	-1.2	-3.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,500	2,500	2,600	0.0	-3.8
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,000	14,100	15,000	-0.7	-6.7
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	2,900	3,100	2,700	-6.5	7.4
Nondurable Goods	6,000	6,000	6,200	0.0	-3.2
Food Manufacturing	4,400	4,400	4,200	0.0	4.8
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	800	700	-12.5	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	900	800	1,300	12.5	-30.8
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	226,300	223,000	215,700	1.5	4.9
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	56,300	55,800	52,800	0.9	6.6
Trade	48,600	48,100	45,100	1.0	7.8
Wholesale Trade	13,000	12,600	12,100	3.2	7.4
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,900	7,000	6,900	-1.4	0.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	4,100	4,000	3,800	2.5	7.9
Retail Trade	35,600	35,500	33,000	0.3	7.9
Food & Beverage Stores	4,800	4,700	4,700	2.1	2.1
General Merchandise Stores	7,300	7,300	6,800	0.0	7.4
All Other Retail Trade	23,500	23,500	21,500	0.0	9.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,700	7,700	7,700	0.0	0.0
Utilities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0	0.0
<i>Information</i>	4,700	4,700	4,600	0.0	2.2
Telecommunications	1,500	1,500	1,400	0.0	7.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	15,400	15,400	14,300	0.0	7.7
Finance & Insurance	10,700	10,800	9,900	-0.9	8.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,700	4,600	4,400	2.2	6.8
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	42,000	41,100	40,700	2.2	3.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	12,500	12,000	12,200	4.2	2.5
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,600	5,500	5,700	1.8	-1.8
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	23,900	23,600	22,800	1.3	4.8
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	33,400	32,900	32,000	1.5	4.4
Educational Services	2,300	2,300	2,400	0.0	-4.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,100	30,600	29,600	1.6	5.1
Hospitals	10,300	10,000	9,500	3.0	8.4
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	24,200	24,700	24,000	-2.0	0.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,400	3,000	3,200	-20.0	-25.0
Accommodation & Food Services	21,800	21,700	20,800	0.5	4.8
Accommodation	2,700	2,300	2,200	17.4	22.7
Food Services & Drinking Places	19,100	19,400	18,600	-1.5	2.7
<i>Other Services</i>	7,900	8,000	6,600	-1.3	19.7
Total Government	42,400	40,400	40,700	5.0	4.2
Federal Government	5,900	6,000	5,900	-1.7	0.0
State & Local Government	36,500	34,400	34,800	6.1	4.9
State Government	13,200	12,600	13,400	4.8	-1.5
State Government Education	4,200	3,600	4,600	16.7	-8.7
State Government Administration	9,000	9,000	8,800	0.0	2.3
Local Government	23,300	21,800	21,400	6.9	8.9
Local Government Education	15,000	12,900	13,300	16.3	12.8
Local Government Administration	8,300	8,900	8,100	-6.7	2.5

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

willing to work at area wage rates has forced many employers to begin looking out of the area for employees. It is possible that this temporary lag in finding workers could slow employment growth for a short time until enough workers are recruited.

Nonfarm jobs in the metropolitan area increased by 2,600 from August and by 9,800 from September 2006. The monthly gain was especially notable because it included the loss of over 1,000 jobs at Micron Technology. Manufacturing continued its decline, shedding another 300 jobs, a third of them in computer and electronic product manufacturing. The manufacturing sector has struggled nationwide but until recently had been pretty healthy in southwestern Idaho. Further declines in this industry are possible, which could create an additional labor pool for other area manufacturers. Despite the problems in high-tech manufacturing, there are other industries in the manufacturing sector that are doing very well such as the more traditional metals fabricators.

September marked the beginning of fall, which also means the beginning of the school year. Both local and state governments added a significant number of jobs in education. State government education was up 600 in September and local government added 2,100 jobs. That put total nonfarm jobs 1,700 higher than September 2006. Public school payrolls reflect several new schools opening this year.

Health care had a good month, adding 500 new jobs as St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center opened its new facility in Eagle, and a number of dentists and family practitioners opened around the area. Construction began its seasonal decline a little early perhaps due to the slowdown in some sectors, especially housing. Overall, September was a good month in light of losses in manufacturing and construction. The economy added some quality jobs, particularly in health care, education and wholesale trade. The September 2007 civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in Southwestern Idaho Table 2 on page 19.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE-NAMPA METRO AREA

- Micron Technology continued to lose hundreds of millions of dollars. The company reported its fiscal 2007 fourth quarter loss at \$158 million following a loss of \$225 million during the third quarter. Micron reported total 2007 losses at \$320 million. Top executives said they will continue to look at ways to lower overhead over the next 18 months, and employees at the company's subsidiary Spec-

tek in Nampa were forewarned that many job cuts are likely in the next year.

- MPC Computers of Nampa recently completed its purchase of Gateway Computer's professional business at a cost of approximately \$90 million. That gave MPC ownership of all of Gateway's products and services in the professional business markets. MPC also takes over Gateway's assembly facility in Tennessee and operations in Colorado and South Dakota. As a result of this deal, MPC plans to add 100 new employees at its Nampa facility.
- The Boise regional office of the U.S. Small Business Administration backed a record 1,030 loans valued at \$155 million during the 2007 federal budget year. That was a 25 percent increase in the number of loans over the last fiscal year and an 18 percent increase in loan value. Small business has grown rapidly since 2000 when the Boise office backed just 342 loans for \$52.7 million.
- The College of Western Idaho that was recently approved by voters will not be opening in January 2008 as initially hoped. A lack of accreditation and fashioning an agreement to work under Boise State University's accreditation caused the delay. The two-year community college wants Boise State to operate as a host institution until it gains its own accreditation. The cost of classes will range from \$15 to \$1,400. But the college has said that it expects traditional courses to cost about \$120 per credit hour.
- The first GARVEE bond road project proposed by former Gov. Dirk Kempthorne recently got under way. The six-mile stretch of Interstate 84 from Broadway Avenue to Eisenman Road is being repaved and should be completed by next summer.
- The Idaho Youth Ranch, a nonprofit agency serving children and families throughout Idaho, recently opened its 22nd store in Boise. The store is also the Youth Ranch's largest at 12,000 square feet. Another store is scheduled to open shortly in Garden City. The Idaho Youth Ranch has also announced plans to add two stores per year over the next few years.
- Another small Boise County community will be seeing a new development in the near future. Sharpe Enterprises LLC of Las Vegas has begun selling three to seven acre lots at its Elk Run community just south of Idaho City. Lot prices start at \$79,900, and 46 lots will make up the 214 acre development.

- The former Simplot ethanol manufacturing facility in Caldwell has reopened. Westway Holdings Corp. of New Orleans, a subsidiary of a London-based company, is producing up to 4,000 gallons of ethanol a day at the facility. Company officials expect the plant to produce up to five million gallons annually.
- Stevens-Henager College, a private college based in Utah, recently opened its new campus in Boise near the Edwards 21 Cinemas just off Interstate 84. The new building is 80,000 square feet, and the college plans to lease out the space it does not use. Stevens-Henager offers degrees in business, various medical programs, computer science and graphic arts with over 300 students.
- South Mountain Mines Inc. of Owyhee County has been acquired by Thunder Mountain Gold. In the acquisition, Thunder Mountain Gold received 17 underground silver mines in the South Mountain Mining District in Owyhee County.
- After 16 years, the College of Idaho in Caldwell has dropped Albertson from its name, restoring the name it held for a century. College officials believed that retaining the Albertson name made people think the private liberal arts school had no need for additional funding resources. In addition, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation recently donated \$50 million to the College of Idaho for the school's endowment fund.
- Nampa's Northwest Nazarene University is building a new 55,000-square-foot nursing education facility. The program has over 180 students after just six years of operation. The \$9 million facility is scheduled for completion in December 2008. In addition to the nursing program, it will house the computer science, biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics departments.
- Grocery store chain WinCo, which operates from Boise, recently announced plans for a 700,000-square-foot distribution center in east Boise near the former Associated Foods Distribution facility. Once completed, WinCo's distribution center will employ approximately 200 people.
- Longtime Idaho recreational vehicle dealer Bodily RV has been purchased by the largest dealer of recreational vehicles in the country, Freedom Roads/Camping World. Bodily RV has locations in Meridian and Idaho Falls and annual sales of over \$45 million. The new owner plans to expand the

current Meridian facility and increase staff by 30 to 35.

- Construction has started on the expansion of Mercy Medical Center's emergency room facilities. The project will add 11 new rooms to treat patients at a cost of \$6.2 million.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Brundage Mountain Resort is on schedule to have two new chairlifts operational for this year's ski season. One will open up 160 acres of mountain never opened to skiers before. In addition to the new terrain, the lifts will allow 3,600 more skiers an hour to access the mountain. The new lifts cost over \$3 million. They are the resort's largest investment in nearly 50 years.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- The Payette City Council recently voted to purchase approximately three acres directly adjacent to the city's wastewater treatment plant to allow for future expansion.

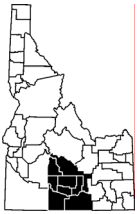
VALLEY COUNTY

- According to a local real estate broker, home prices in Valley County have begun coming down in a big way. Over the last several months, average prices have dropped by \$20,000 to \$30,000. Incomes not keeping pace with rising home prices in recent years is one of the reasons.
- Construction on phase one of the Alpine Village mixed use development in downtown McCall at the sight of the former Ridley's grocery store is under way. The first phase includes a quarter of the 100 planned residential units priced from \$300,000 and 17,000 square feet of office, restaurant and retail space.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Bucking the trend of most of the rest of southwestern Idaho, Washington County continues to issue building permits at a rapid pace. The county is well on its way to issuing over 100 building permits for the year. According to Washington County's planning and zoning administrator, there has been no slowdown in construction activity this year.

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South Central Idaho News

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Despite significant swings in employment during August and September, there is typically little statistical impact, and that was the case again this year in south central Idaho. The unemployment rates remained low without major changes. Harvest saw food manufacturers and farmers ramp up their hiring of truck drivers, equipment operators, potato sorters, weigh station attendants and food processing workers who can the sweet corn and ensure only quality potatoes are cut into standard-sized French fries. At the same time, employees may be working additional seasonal jobs they regularly take in the fall to augment income or earn holiday money. They may be working hours that creep into the double digits and then some. At home, they may have kids leaving for college, giving up their part-time or full-time summer jobs. Some retailers are reducing hours or positions as they close their garden centers, but others are gearing up for school shopping. Teachers have returned en masse to their jobs and that includes support positions – bus drivers, hot lunch workers, day care providers and many others who contribute to the educational system. Restaurants and drinking establishments, recreational businesses such as golf courses, city pools and hospitality arenas have earned a sojourn for a few months before the holiday season gets frenetic with parties and travel. But construction continues apace, facing completion deadlines before the frigid temperatures set in. The government sector will be laying off firefighters, agricultural inspectors, and some ranger and campground positions. August and September truly have employment ups and downs across the economy, but at the end of the quarter, the numbers belie the reality of that constant state of flux.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

LINCOLN COUNTY

- The Shoshone District of the Bureau of Land Management has begun reha-

South Central Idaho Table 1: Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment—Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,960	48,340	49,510	3.4	0.9
Unemployment	940	1,050	1,510	-10.5	-37.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	2.2	3.0		
Total Employment	49,020	47,290	48,000	3.7	2.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,980	49,180	50,130	1.6	-0.3
Unemployment	690	850	1,200	-18.8	-42.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.4	1.7	2.4		
Total Employment	49,290	48,330	48,930	2.0	0.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	41,850	41,650	39,980	0.5	4.7
Goods-Providing Industries	8,290	8,250	7,550	0.5	9.8
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,610	2,660	2,410	-1.9	8.3
Manufacturing	5,650	5,560	5,110	1.6	10.6
Food Manufacturing	3,370	3,280	2,960	2.7	13.9
Other Manufacturing	2,280	2,280	2,150	0.0	6.0
Service-Providing Industries	33,560	33,400	32,430	0.5	3.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,280	10,240	9,730	0.4	5.7
Wholesale Trade	1,980	2,010	1,870	-1.5	5.9
Retail Trade	6,030	6,060	5,810	-0.5	3.8
Utilities	140	150	160	-6.7	-12.5
Transportation & Warehousing	2,130	2,020	1,890	5.4	12.7
Information	650	680	620	-4.4	4.8
Financial Activities	1,680	1,690	1,690	-0.6	-0.6
Professional & Business Services	5,160	5,170	5,350	-0.2	-3.6
Educational & Health Services	5,360	5,330	5,030	0.6	6.6
Leisure & Hospitality	3,320	3,360	3,190	-1.2	4.1
Other Services	1,490	1,550	1,460	-3.9	2.1
Government Education	3,200	2,940	2,940	8.8	8.8
Government Administration	2,420	2,440	2,420	-0.8	0.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

bilitating the desert burned by wildfires over the summer. The project requires warehouse workers, archeologists and tractor operators pulling seed drills. The warehouse workers have mixed seed varieties including 80 percent native plants and grasses – 30 varieties of plants and approximately 1.2 million pounds of seed ready for sowing from Shoshone to the Nevada border. The archeologists must investigate burned areas for artifacts that have been exposed before

rehabilitation can begin. The government is most concerned about a low supply of sagebrush seeds and has set up a program to oversee volunteers collecting them. Hopefully most of the seed will be drilled before the ground freezes. Many of these planting contractors are on 70-day contracts, but the Bureau of Land Management estimates it could take up to three years for the project to be completed. Last year 90,000 acres were rehabilitated.

MINI-CASSIA

- Mustang Sally's Bar and Grill has opened in Paul, offering full breakfast, lunch and dinner options seven days a week. Later in the year, a bar with live music and dancing will be added.
- Burley's mortuary services will soon be narrowed to one after remodeling and expansion is completed at the Hansen Mortuary. The Keystone Group owns both the Payne Mortuary and the Hansen Mortuary and wants to provide a fully updated facility for the community. The mortuary will be renamed Hansen-Payne Mortuary in February 2008 when all renovations are finished and the Payne Mortuary property will be sold.
- Cassia County approved a request from East Valley Cattle to operate three 7,500-animal feedlots near Malta. The county code caps any permit at 7,500, forcing the company to set up three operations. The company plans to eventually have a total of 31,000 head on its 800 acres. The issue has been whether to concentrate the animals and minimize the number of neighbors affected or scatter the feedlots. The biggest concern for the county was how East Valley would dispose of waste. The company plans to compost and spread the manure on neighboring fields.
- North Side Canal Co. is recharging the Snake River Plain Aquifer with 20,000 acre feet of water under a mitigation agreement between groundwater users and surface water users. This is the largest recharge effort to date and it is considered a risky undertaking since the results are uncertain. The hope is that the water will re-emerge at Thousand Springs within the next six months. The water must be released slowly from Milner Reservoir for maximum absorption by the aquifer through the canal's cracks and crevices. But if heavy frost causes the slowly moving water to ice up, then canal hydro equipment could be damaged and the water release would cease. The cost of the water is \$400,000, which doesn't include the price paid to North Side Canal to transport the water down the canal system. The Idaho Groundwater Appropriators and Idaho Dairymen's Association are financing the recharge. It started after the irrigation season ended in late October. Letters warning of curtailment for next year's irrigation season have been sent to 2,700 junior water rights holders. Heyburn and Paul have city wells that could be affected should the snow pack be marginal again this winter. Mini-Cassia area farmers would be particularly hard hit by a curtailment.
- Fairfield Inn by Marriott is enjoying the novelty of being the new kid on the block in Burley. Celebrations have included an open house in September and a grand opening at the end of October. The hotel was sold out on a Monday night, in part because of construction crews working on commercial projects. The motel has 81 rooms with 13 suites available, a conference room seating up to 50, a pool, workout facility and business center. All rooms have flat screen, high definition televisions.
- Pomerelle Mountain Resort's owner, Woody Anderson, was recently inducted into the Will and Jean Pickett Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame at Olympic Park in Park City, Utah. Anderson grew up skiing in Utah and has been professionally active since he was 15 years old. He has diversified his interests in skiing but not strayed far since then, having owned ski shops, operated ski schools and owned and operated Pomerelle since 1973. In addition, Anderson has been an innovator by implementing the concept of the 450-foot Magic Carpet at Pomerelle, which transports beginning snowboarders and skiers up the beginner hill. It is an escalator of sorts and alleviates the woes of mounting and dismounting that can discourage learners. Pomerelle has recently been granted permission to expand its runs and also to divert melting water to a reservoir for making snow.
- Boise Cascade, known as the Box Factory in Minidoka and Cassia counties, has recently been sold in a piecemeal transaction that includes paper, packaging and newsprint operations. The buyer is Aldabra 2 Acquisition Corp. There are no planned staffing changes.
- DaVita Dialysis Center recently moved to a new facility. Ten employees have been providing dialysis to 40 individuals at the previous location in Park View Care & Rehabilitation Center. The new location offers easy access from the interstate, new equipment and flat screen televisions.

GOODING COUNTY

- After 71 years in business, the Gooding Seed Co. has been sold to Helena Chemical Co. Gooding Seed started as a joint partnership between Robbie Robertson, Joe Johnson and J.B. Purdum. Originally, the company handled seeds and beans with locations in Gooding, Shoshone and Mountain Home. Later, the partnership dissolved and Joe Johnson took over the bean division. The seed operation con-

tinued on with Gooding Seed and the Farmer's Warehouse in Mountain Home. They later built a bulk fertilizer plant a few blocks from the seed operation. The change of ownership is the result of the changing face of agriculture in the United States. Operations must continue to grow bigger and keep up with research and development to be competitive. Helena Chemical is based in Collierville, Tenn., with other Idaho operations in Burley, Caldwell, Hazelton and Paul. It has extensive operations nationwide and a specialty division that includes chemical applications for ponds and lakes, a forestry division for keeping large tracts of trees healthy and thriving and a turf and ornamentals division that consults on golf course and sports field maintenance and sod farms.

- A grand opening was held at Thousand Springs Resort, formerly Sligars 1000 Springs Resort. The resort's amenities include a large indoor hot springs pool, jetted hot tubs, camping facilities and boat docks. It is located in the picturesque Hagerman Valley on U.S. Highway 30, the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway. Thousand Springs is located directly across from the resort and spills out of the canyon wall like a sieve year round. The Henslee family purchased this longstanding resort from Marge Sligar.

BLAINE COUNTY

- Marijuana is on a voting initiative for Hailey residents this November when they choose their city leaders. Ryan Davidson, chairman of Liberty Lobby of Idaho and a pro-marijuana advocate, has gathered the required number of signatures to put legalization of marijuana for medical use to voters. The proposition would also lower the priority of enforcing marijuana law for Hailey City Police and allow the industrial use of hemp, a by-product of marijuana.
- The former head of Idaho hedge fund Wood River Capital Management LLC was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to securities fraud and other charges earlier this year. Forty-one-year old John H. Whittier failed to disclose beneficial interest in excess of federal standards, and investors lost \$88 million in 2005. U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff ordered Whittier to forfeit \$5.5 million. Restitution will be imposed at a later date and could total the full amount lost by investors.
- Blaine County commissioners have approved removal of gravel by Valley Paving from the Big Wood River channel 150 yards downstream from Glendale Bridge when the river bed is dry. Gravel removal adds years to the bridge's life.
- The Williams Market building sold earlier this year to development company VPI based in the Wood River Valley. There are no public plans for the building, but

it is in a strategic location for a variety of uses such as office, retail or recreation.

- Icebreaker, a high-end performance clothing manufacturer, is gradually ceasing backroom operations leaving 20 employees facing a layoff or a move to Portland, Ore., where the sales and marketing divisions will be relocated next spring. The operations part of the business will remain in Ketchum until spring 2009. The company moved to Ketchum three years ago, but rapid growth caused them to reconsider locations. The company expects to grow by 60 employees in the next 18 months. It currently distributes goods through 1,500 retail outlets and exports to more than 22 countries.

JEROME COUNTY

- A new dairy related company manufacturing milk protein powder, concentrated filtered milk, lactose powder and cream plans to begin operating in Jerome by the winter of 2008. The first phase is estimated to cost \$80 million and will employ 65 workers as plant engineers, machine operators and maintenance workers earning an average wage of \$15 an hour with a competitive benefit package. The second and third phases are in development and testing stages. This company augments the industry cluster of milk manufacturing that has developed to support the exponential growth of large-scale dairies in Jerome and Gooding counties.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Ireland-based Glanbia Foods, maker of cheese throughout the Magic Valley, has announced plans to direct 10 percent of its production toward organic cheese. Two years ago, the difference between the cost of standard milk and organic milk was substantial. It has since fallen by 50 percent, and the time is right to use the limited supply of locally grown organic milk. There is not a need for capital improvements for this new line of cheese since the machinery and equipment is cleaned to organic standards at the end of each day. Organic cheese will be produced in the first few hours of operation each day and then the lines will shift to conventional cheese production the rest of the day. The production goal is 8 to 10 million pounds of organic Cheddar, Colby and Monterey jack cheeses over the next year. It takes a minimum of two years for a dairy to be certified organic so production will not likely increase in the short-term. All of Glanbia's products are privately labeled by the companies purchasing the cheese.
- Jayco hosted a ribbon cutting at its new plant in the Urban Renewal area. This is its third facility in Twin Falls and is already producing 10 Jayco Flight Trail-

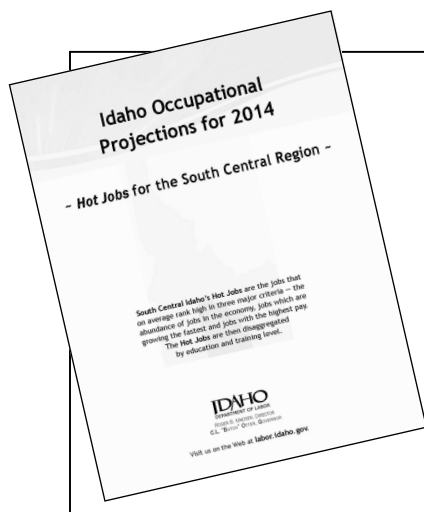
ers daily with a newly hired crew. Hiring and training continues, and Jayco believes it will realize a production goal of 20 trailers per day. Starting in December, a second line will be added to make the Jayco Octane, a trailer with a ramp that doubles as a toy hauler and retails for \$24,000. The Twin Falls manufacturer will turn out approximately 5,000 of the 35,000 trailers manufactured annually by Jayco with trailers from the Twin Falls plants valued at \$100 million.

- Pandora's Restaurant had a ribbon cutting for its new location in Historic Downtown Twin Falls, formerly occupied by Muggers Brew Pub. The new location has a meeting room and will feature live music on Friday nights. Pandora's features quiches and calzones from its previous menu along with a new array of treats.
- The Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital is transitioning into a government office building and currently houses a few staff from the County Assessor's department and election records along with 14 doctors. The clinic will be renovated prior to the County Commission moving in next May. Commissioners anticipate the 1947 vintage building that has been remodeled on three previous occasions will have another 25 years of usable life.
- Canyon View Psychiatric and Addiction Services closed its teenage program in August due to reduced demand. At the beginning of 2007, ten of the 12 beds were empty on average — beds that could be filled by adults, which is a growing client-base for the treatment center. Now teenagers needing the highest level of psychiatric care must travel to Boise, Idaho Falls or Coeur d'Alene for treatment. In August only seven teens were diverted to other hospitals and just two in September.
- The College of Southern Idaho is offering a new apprenticeship training program this year developed in cooperation with

the manufacturing community. Manufacturing maintenance is a four-year program producing a journeyman's certificate endorsed by the U.S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. Tuition and books are \$4,000 for all four years. Many of the companies encouraging the program are reimbursing their employees at varying points. The courses include drafting, electrical systems, fluid dynamics, pumps and boilers along with math, physics, computer training and communication skills. An individual's investment in the course could pay for itself in about six months with an anticipated \$5 per hour raise based on achieving the higher journeyman skill level. Fifteen students were expected for this first semester, but 40 enrolled.

- The Department of Water Resources has extended the moratorium on geothermal pumping in a 140-square-mile area near Twin Falls. The moratorium was imposed in 1987 so this unique natural resource could possibly regain pressure. Studies had shown decreasing artesian pressure potentially due to those tapping into the spring down slope from the source. This is the fourth time the moratorium has been extended and will continue until 2012.
- The Federal Aviation Administration awarded Buhl \$525,000 to improve its airport. The funding is a key to keeping the small airport viable. The city will contribute \$25,000 toward the new concrete pads needed for both fueling and tie downs.
- The Buhl School Board has opted to save the last remnant of the old Buhl High School that was torn down earlier this year. The gym will undergo \$58,000 in restoration and safety improvements so it can be used for practices and give the kids another venue to

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HOT JOBS PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

South central Idaho's Hot Jobs are the jobs that on average rank high in three major criteria — the abundance of jobs in the economy, jobs that are growing the fastest and jobs with the highest pay.

This publication, available at lmi.idaho.gov, lists the disaggregated Hot Jobs by education and training level. From the Web site, choose Area LMI from the top menu. Then choose the region of interest from the statewide map.



Southeastern Idaho News

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA & POWER COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The number of people working in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area in September increased by 2,350 from a year earlier, and the increase of nearly 3,000 from August was the largest one-month increase ever. The expansion of the labor force in September was due in large part to the opening of the fall semester at Idaho State University and other schools in the area. Workers were back on the line at Con Agra in American Falls after the annual August shut down for maintenance, boosting food manufacturing jobs, and good weather allowed construction workers to continue on projects started earlier in the summer in the metropolitan area that includes Bannock and Power counties. Call centers and financial institutions hired additional help to meet customer demand. Most other counties in the region also experienced an increase in employment. Southeastern Idaho Table 2 shows the employment changes by county from September 2006 to September 2007.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LABOR FORCE

Economic development is difficult to define because of its broad application and the many factors involved. In general, it includes the creation, attraction, expansion and retention of jobs in a given area. Most businesses thinking about relocating or expanding consider location factors affecting their cost of doing business – transportation, markets, labor, raw material, utilities, business site location, financial capital and taxes. These factors are often intertwined, but typically labor is a major consideration. Southeastern Idaho has been able to compete with other parts of the nation because the cost of doing business is generally about 85 percent or less of the national average. The area is also known for having a good work force. As unemployment rates continued to decline during the past year, employers have become more and more concerned

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	47,120	44,460	45,350	6.0	3.9
Unemployment	1,020	1,310	1,600	-22.1	-36.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.2	2.9	3.5		
Total Employment	46,100	43,150	43,750	6.8	5.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,840	43,990	44,720	1.9	0.3
Unemployment	740	1,080	1,300	-31.5	-43.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.7	2.5	2.9		
Total Employment	44,100	42,910	43,420	2.8	1.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS					
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	6,050	6,120	5,930	-1.1	2.0
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,090	2,160	2,120	-3.2	-1.4
Manufacturing	3,930	3,930	3,780	0.0	4.0
Food Manufacturing	1,410	1,260	1,230	11.9	14.6
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	180	180	170	0.0	5.9
Machinery Manufacturing	370	380	260	-2.6	42.3
Other Manufacturing	1,970	2,110	2,120	-6.6	-7.1
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	34,360	32,770	32,920	4.9	4.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,410	7,350	7,460	0.8	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	1,370	1,360	1,390	0.7	-1.4
Retail Trade	4,670	4,620	4,590	1.1	1.7
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,320	1,320	1,430	0.0	-7.7
Information	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	2,290	2,290	2,140	0.0	7.0
Professional & Business Services	5,720	5,610	5,420	2.0	5.5
Educational & Health Services	3,450	3,410	3,180	1.2	8.5
Leisure & Hospitality	3,560	3,560	3,700	0.0	-3.8
Other Services	1,170	1,190	1,160	-1.7	0.9
Government Education	6,790	4,830	4,530	40.6	49.9
Government Administration	3,270	3,830	4,630	-14.6	-29.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeastern Idaho Table 2: Number of Employed Workers by County

County	Sep 2006 employed workers	Sep 2007 employed workers	Difference
Bannock	40,350	42,186	1,836
Bear Lake	3,126	3,078	-48
Bingham	20,518	20,883	365
Caribou	3,318	3,466	148
Franklin	6,264	6,725	461
Oneida	2,220	2,310	90
Power	3,406	3,914	508
Area Total	79,202	82,562	5,908

about the availability of workers. The increasing number of help wanted signs in business windows and ads in local newspapers is evidence that smaller employers, and those offering only part-time or seasonal work, are having difficulty finding workers. However, larger employers offering good-paying jobs with some medical benefits have been able to fill their employment needs, and that indicates there are workers willing to move into the area or existing workers are willing to stay in the area by taking new, better-paying jobs. A recent survey by the Bannock Development Corp. and the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce found more than 68 percent of the respondents knew two to three people willing to move to the area if they found a higher paying job. And 90 percent of them would bring families with them. These kinds of numbers are good barometers for employers wanting to expand or relocate in southeastern Idaho.

Employers are equally concerned about worker attitudes, turnover rates, fringe benefits, absenteeism and competition for workers from other employers. Workers in southeastern Idaho have the reputation for some of the highest work standards in the nation and lower turnover rates. In manufacturing, for example, southeastern Idaho had a turnover rate of 11 percent from spring 2006 through winter 2007. That compared with a national turnover rate of 16.5 percent. Employers spend a good deal of time and money to evaluate work force quality, and it is important that workers know the importance of going to work each day and being productive. It not only affects their lives directly but it may have long range implications for their children and grandchildren if they want to raise their own families in the same area.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Despite national concern over escalating foreclosures and a collapsing housing market, Bannock County and the rest of southeastern Idaho have not been severely impacted. According to local bankers and mortgage brokers, the rate of foreclosure in 2007 is nearly 20 percent behind the foreclosure rate of 2006. Additionally residential real estate has been selling at a pace comparable to 2006. According to the Pocatello Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service, there were 1,165 single-family homes sold through September compared to 1,131 during the first nine months of 2006. The price was also higher in 2007. The monthly average selling price of a single-family home this year was \$150,490 compared to \$134,996 in 2006.
- Colorado-based Correctional Health Care Management will take over medical services for Bannock County prisoners. The contract will provide 24-hour, seven-day-a-week coverage at the jail for \$600,000.

- Lava Hot Springs Foundation opened a new indoor aquatics complex. The enclosed 25-meter pool will allow swimming and diving during all kinds of weather while those preferring not to swim can relax in the 106- to 112-degree hot pools.
- Pocatello city officials have been busy recruiting new employers to the area. Although nothing definite has been announced, there are reports of big-box retailer Costco locating in the Gate City. In addition, a Canadian-based equipment dealer and a metal fabricator have reportedly expressed interest in opening businesses in the area. Each is expected to employ about 200 workers.
- Site preparation for Hoku Materials polysilicon plant has begun, and the company announced plans to produce an additional 500 metric tons of polysilicon a year. Additionally the company has amended its agreement with Sanyo Electric Co. to extend the financing deadline from October 2007 to Dec. 31, 2007.
- New business openings get the fanfare, but the businesses that survive the test of time are the backbone of the economy. Varsity Cleaners celebrated 50 years of operation in October, not only surviving a very competitive market but thriving. A strong work ethic, innovation and a trusting partnership between Don Aslett and Arlo Luk propelled Varsity Cleaners from a small local house cleaning business to a nationally recognized business with 5,000 employees and 3,000 subcontractors.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- County commissioners approved rezoning for Black Bear Mountain Resort. The new zone designation will allow the developers to apply for a large scale Public Utility District grant. In addition to approving the zone change, the commissioners are considering stipulations that the area would revert back to current zoning status if Black Bear Development is not able to proceed as planned.
- Representatives from the Five County Joint Transportation Committee met at the Oregon Trail Center to discuss progress, problems and future development along U.S. Highway 89. This highway is an integral part of eastern Idaho, and its development is due in large part to the cooperative efforts of the counties involved.
- The Montpelier News Examiner was purchased by Cache Valley Publishing LLC of Seattle, Wash. The new owners are not planning any immediate changes and will continue the tradition of quality journalism.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Gold's Gym held a grand opening for its new Blackfoot health facility. The family owned and operated franchise employs 22 people and is recognized nationally for having top-of-the-line equipment and well-trained instructors.
- Spudnik's innovations have contributed to its increase of 30 percent in sales the past three years. In 2007 the company added 100 feet of warehouse to its manufacturing facility west of Blackfoot, devoting about two-thirds to quality assurance testing. Well known for manufacturing potato production equipment in the local area, Spudnik has grown and expanded into many more markets and product lines. Growers in Russia, New Zealand and China are regular customers, and equipment has been modified to work in onion and carrot fields, hill broccoli and pile walnuts. Company executives credit their success and growth to workers who are innovative and take pride in producing a high-quality product.
- The potato harvest is wrapping up just as game bird production and sales take off. October through January is the busiest time of year for D.J. Investment Co. near Firth. The company operated by Daniel and Ruth Johnson produces about 6,500 pheasants and 3,500 chucker partridges each year. The birds are shipped primarily to Utah hunting clubs, and a few are sold to local hunting dog trainers. The birds sell for \$7 to \$13 each depending on the time of year and age of bird. The Johnsons expect to expand in the future and include a variety of quail along with their partridges and pheasants.
- Potato processor Idaho Supreme has signed a 10-year agreement under which the RD Offutt Co. will supply all the raw potatoes it processes and buy back the processed potatoes. Idaho Supreme hopes to stabilize the industry by balancing the production of potato products with production of potatoes. On July 17, United Potato Growers of Idaho merged its dehydration plants with those of RD Offutt Co. of North Dakota to create North American Foods, the largest dehydration company in the nation.
- Another innovative Bingham County couple, Jan and Loretta Denlinger, are marketing a new fertilizer product called "Shot." It is produced from silt enriched with a blend of minerals, monatomics and microorganisms from the waste of fish fed earthworms the Denlingers raise in their compost bin. The silt and water are filtered through a series of screens and result in a liquid fertilizer that has no smell, is frost resistant and boosts water retention in the soil. Nurseries, greenhouse and golf courses are primary customers.

- Local officials were encouraged to learn the Department of Energy has issued its final regulations for the loan guarantee program authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. These regulations pave the way for federal support of clean energy products such as cellulose ethanol being proposed by Iogen Biorefinery Partners LLC. An Iogen-operated facility proposed for the Shelley area has been stalled pending the development of federal loan guarantees. There is still much uncertainty about the Iogen project, but the approval of loan guarantees is a positive development.
- The Shoshone-Bannock tribe has been awarded a \$1.8 million grant to finance a vocational rehabilitation program for tribal members with disabilities. The grant will be administered over five years by Tribal Health and Human Services.
- The Blackfoot Industrial Development Corp. approved up to \$5 million in industrial revenue bonds to be issued by Key Bank to Premier Technology Inc. to assist in financing a plant expansion.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Large electrical rate increases proposed for customers of Rocky Mountain Power are stimulating debate in the area. Two of the largest users, Agrium and Monsanto, have been told to expect increases of 14.5 percent and 24.1 percent respectively. Residential users are scheduled for a 7 percent increase. The affect on the local economy concerns all of those living in the area. Rocky Mountain wants to begin charging the higher rates on Jan. 1. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will be holding hearings this fall.
- Grace Junior and Senior High School was recognized by the Idaho State Board of Education as a Distinguished School. Grace was the only high school in the state to receive the award. The other six recipients were charter, elementary or middle schools. A school must be in the top 5 percent of schools making its annual yearly progress target for students two years in a row and have significantly reduced gaps between subgroups to be recognized as a Distinguished School.
- Bureau of Land Management officials said the J.R. Simplot Co. is conducting phosphate exploration in the Dairy Sink Line area of Caribou County 12 miles west of Soda Springs. Simplot acquired the leases at an auction in 2000. Exploration is expected to last about two years. If it appears there are sufficient phosphate reserves, Simplot would begin the permitting part of the mining application process.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- The Preston Citizen newspaper was purchased by Cache Valley Publishing LLC of Seattle, Wash. The new owners are not planning any immediate changes and will continue the tradition of quality journalism.
- The lifting of a building moratorium was greeted with many inquiries about future development of several proposed subdivision sites. Cache Valley Homes, an Arizona-based firm, inquired about a possible 100-lot subdivision and has given planning and zoning official a sketch review but has not made formal application. Plans for four or five subdivisions with four or fewer lots have been submitted to planning and zoning for review.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- The old Malad Post Office is now the home of a new naturopathic medical clinic owned and operated by Dr. Larry Womack, formerly of Bear River, Utah. According to Womack, the new clinic will be the largest of its type in Idaho and will offer dietary help, a sleep laboratory, colon hydrotherapy and body detoxification. In addition the clinic will also have a chiropractor and a massage therapist.

- Oneida County officials renewed their contract to use the Caribou County jail for the same \$49 per day for seven prisoners. The total cost would be \$125,195 for the six men and one woman. Oneida County commissioners also discussed setting a date for demolition of their jail as required when the insurance carrier canceled coverage for the facility.
- County commissioners have been given a grant from the state Department of Transportation to improve the airport.
- Mountain View Auto, owned by Mike Greenwood, had a large turnout for its grand opening in Malad. The business will service and sell all makes and models of automobiles.

POWER COUNTY

- Ken's Market owners, sister and brother Sherrie and Rod Garner, purchased Cardinal Market in American Falls from the Farnsworth family. The purchase will allow Ken's to add new products, buy in greater volume and keep many of the current employees.

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East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Nearly 2,000 more people joined the labor force from August to September in the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area as seasonal summer jobs turned into permanent employment and educational institutions began the fall term. There were 3,300 more jobs than in September 2006 as shown in East Central Idaho Table 1 on page 29. The unemployment rate showed little change over the month but dipped five-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year. Health care, education, government administration and professional and business support services all expanded. The growing population is feeding the labor force. Many of the newcomers are young professionals and their spouses with children under 12.

POPULATION SURROUNDING IDAHO FALLS

The population of Idaho Falls has grown 4.1 percent to nearly 52,800 in mid-2006 since the 2000 census. But the city of Ammon nearly doubled its population. Most residential land in Idaho Falls has been developed

so the only way to accommodate more growth is to annex more land or rezone existing land for residential use. Ammon, on the other hand, still has room to expand, and many subdivisions are in the works. Available land and property taxes lower than in neighboring Idaho Falls makes Ammon attractive to residents planning to move and to newcomers. Commercial sites in Ammon are springing up all around. Bonneville County experienced a 14.7 percent growth in population since the census, another 12,100 people. Almost half of those people located in Ammon.

The Idaho Falls/Ammon area is a hub for medical services and retail business, attracting customers from other counties and even other states judging by the increasing number of out-of-county vehicle license plates. But just how many people are in the vicinity who would come to Bonneville County's metro area for services?

A quarter of a million people live within a 50-mile radius of Idaho Falls. That includes Pocatello, Dubois and Ashton. The distance is a normal daily commute for many

East Central Idaho News (continued from Page 28)

people, especially those who drive from Idaho Falls to the Idaho National Laboratory and back. Extending the radius to 100 miles, the population increases to almost 320,000. It encompasses Idaho from Malad City to Mackay almost to West Yellowstone, Mont., and parts of Wyoming and Montana. Traveling from these outlying areas to Idaho Falls for shopping and medical services, especially from the north, east and west is not uncommon.

As for the economy, the number of employers in Bonneville County increased by 285 or 23.8 percent from 2000 until 2006. The average employment increased from 39,667 to 47,402 in the same time period, an increase of almost 8,000 or 19.5 percent. These numbers underscore the population growth and economic activity in and around Idaho Falls. The economy is strong, diversified and growing. Continuing migration from states to the west, especially California, will only keep the area growing. More than half the people who have moved to Idaho in the last 15 years came from California.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

- Spinners is the newest store to open in Taylor Crossing on the River in Idaho Falls. The dealership, owned by Keith Walker, sells scooters, motorcycles and other mobility products, including brands new to the area like Segway, Vespa, Piaggio, Moto Guzzi and Aprilia. Segways are upright motorized two-wheeled devices that have so far been marketed in larger cities. With a top speed of 12.5 miles an hour, they are not yet allowed on greenbelts and in city parks, but Walker hopes this will change so customers can take a spin around the river or in downtown Idaho Falls at a leisurely pace. Walker, who worked for a year to secure dealership rights for Segway, hopes to open stores from Driggs to Coeur d'Alene.

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Sep 2007*	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	59,820	57,990	56,530	3.2	5.8
Unemployment	1,130	1,070	1,370	5.6	-17.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	1.8	2.4		
Total Employment	58,690	56,920	55,160	3.1	6.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	59,690	58,820	57,070	1.5	4.6
Unemployment	780	920	1,350	-15.2	-42.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.3	1.6	2.4		
Total Employment	58,910	57,890	55,720	1.8	5.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,770	52,400	50,940	0.7	3.6
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,480	8,540	8,400	-0.7	1.0
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	5,060	5,130	4,980	-1.4	1.6
Manufacturing	3,410	3,400	3,410	0.3	0.0
Food Manufacturing	950	960	970	-1.0	-2.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	290	300	260	-3.3	11.5
Machinery Manufacturing	170	170	170	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,000	1,970	2,010	1.5	-0.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	44,290	43,860	42,540	1.0	4.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,570	13,700	13,500	-0.9	0.5
Wholesale Trade	3,920	3,940	4,010	-0.5	-2.2
Retail Trade	7,790	7,900	7,700	-1.4	1.2
Utilities	60	70	60	-14.3	0.0
Transportation	1,800	1,790	1,730	0.6	4.0
Information	1,230	1,230	1,260	0.0	-2.4
Financial Activities	2,300	2,310	2,200	-0.4	4.5
Professional & Business Services	6,200	6,200	5,790	0.0	7.1
Educational & Health Services	7,380	7,320	6,870	0.8	7.4
Leisure & Hospitality	4,560	4,700	4,730	-3.0	-3.6
Other Services	1,900	1,970	2,090	-3.6	-9.1
Government Education	3,300	2,740	2,580	20.4	27.9
Government Administration	3,850	3,690	3,520	4.3	9.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

- The Collage, a local restaurant since 2002, changed locations and is now located next to Vino Rosso in downtown Idaho Falls. The head chef and owner, Dave Shipley, also expanded his menu to include escargot and foie gras, more vegetarian and gluten-free dishes, sandwiches and Kobe beef burgers. The new location can seat 70 and has a private dining area for up to 30. Reservations are encouraged but not required.

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Rural Idaho's GDP Anchored State's Economy in 2002

Rural Idaho, mostly bypassed by growth in the late 1990s, held the economic line for the state when recession swept across the nation in 2001 and significantly disrupted Idaho's expansion in 2002.

New estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis show growth in economic output from the state's 33 rural counties was four times greater than in the 11 counties that make up Idaho's five metropolitan areas.

That growth in gross domestic product, even as rural population and personal income continued declining as a percent of the statewide totals, was a key factor in keeping statewide economic statistics positive, making Idaho one of just a dozen states to avoid actual economic decline during that period.

By the next year, 2003, as the economy began to slowly recover from the downturn, the value of the goods and services generated in urban Idaho picked up to essentially match the growth in rural output, which was slowing again.

And once the recovery was in full swing, growth began to again concentrate in metropolitan Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls and Pocatello and to a lesser extent in Lewiston.

It reflected the relative stability of rural communities compared to the volatility of more rapidly growing metropolitan areas. While rural Idaho's growth rate has lagged the statewide rate overall, it has also not been shocked as dramatically by outside economic developments as the urban areas have.

Since 1990 Idaho has had one of the fastest growing populations in the nation, and population gain has been

a driving force behind the economic expansion that has been among the strongest nationally.

The overwhelming majority of that growth has been in the urban centers. In 1990, 58 percent of the population lived in those 11 metropolitan area counties – Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem, Owyhee, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Bannock, Power, Bonneville and Jefferson.

During the next 16 years, three of every four newcomers to Idaho located in those urban counties. The increase was over 60 percent, 2 1/2 times the population increase in rural Idaho. By 2006, 64 percent of Idaho residents were urban.

Urban Idaho was the beneficiary of the 1990s expansion, and it took the brunt of the downturn that followed.

Only the Coeur d'Alene metro area, which covers all of Kootenai County, maintained steady growth numbers. Its gross domestic product in 2002 was up nearly 9 percent from 2001 compared to 1.5 percent growth for the combined urban areas and a 9 percent decline in Pocatello.

Rural Idaho's gross domestic product, however, was up over 6 percent, even posting fractional growth in manufacturing and essentially holding its own in construction. Both provide many of the state's better-paying jobs. Urban output from manufacturing and construction plunged nearly 13 percent — \$490 million — because of major declines in the Boise and Pocatello areas.

A retrenching high-tech sector was largely responsible for the 10 percent drop in manufacturing output in the Boise metro area. Jabil Circuit shut down its Meridian manufacturing plant, eliminating 500 jobs, while Hewlett-Packard laid off 1,800 at its printer plant, and

FYI Table 1: Growth in Idaho's Gross Domestic Product (in millions) 2001-2005

	Idaho	Rural	Urban	Boise	Coeur d'Alene	Idaho Falls	Lewiston	Pocatello
2001	\$35,631	\$10,165	\$25,466	\$17,161	\$2,383	\$2,516	\$1,345	\$2,061
2002	\$36,651	\$10,806	\$25,845	\$17,358	\$2,593	\$2,639	\$1,378	\$1,877
Growth	2.86%	6.30%	1.49%	1.15%	8.81%	4.89%	2.45%	-8.93%
2003	\$38,148	\$11,192	\$26,956	\$17,902	\$2,816	\$2,827	\$1,455	\$1,956
Growth	4.08%	3.57%	4.30%	3.13%	8.60%	7.12%	5.59%	4.21%
2004	\$42,697	\$12,410	\$30,287	\$20,195	\$3,164	\$3,153	\$1,544	\$2,231
Growth	11.92%	10.88%	12.36%	12.81%	12.36%	11.53%	6.12%	14.06%
2005	\$45,891	\$12,864	\$33,027	\$22,145	\$3,441	\$3,472	\$1,597	\$2,372
Growth	7.48%	3.66%	9.05%	9.66%	8.75%	10.12%	3.43%	6.32%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

FYI Table 2: 2002 Gross Domestic Product By Specific Sector and Growth from 2001 (in millions)

	State		Rural		Urban	
Manufacturing	\$4,410	-9.82%	\$1,083	0.93%	\$3,327	-12.84%
Construction	\$2,121	-7.30%	\$580	-0.17%	\$1,541	-9.72%
Retail Trade	\$3,081	5.95%	\$943	8.27%	\$2,138	4.96%
Financial activities	\$6,055	8.20%	\$1,252	25.45%	\$4,803	4.46%
Leisure and hospitality	\$1,318	8.12%	\$436	8.46%	\$882	7.96%
Private goods producers	\$8,611	-7.20%	\$3,285	-1.14%	\$5,326	-10.58%
Private service providers	\$22,586	6.30%	\$5,331	10.60%	\$17,255	5.03%
All Government	\$5,454	6.86%	\$2,188	8.21%	\$3,266	5.97%
State and local	\$4,036	5.82%	\$1,477	6.57%	\$2,559	5.40%
Total GDP	\$36,651	2.86%	\$10,806	6.30%	\$25,845	1.49%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

FYI Table 3: Rural Contribution to Idaho's Economy

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Gross Domestic Product	28.53%	29.48%	29.34%	29.06%	28.03%
Personal Income	32.72%	32.54%	32.19%	32.19%	31.56%
Population	36.28%	35.99%	35.74%	35.35%	34.88%
Nonfarm Jobs	32.24%	32.45%	32.17%	31.60%	31.08%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics

several other companies combined to lay off hundreds more.

On the eastern side of the state, the Astaris elemental phosphorus plant in Pocatello closed, idling 400, and American Microsystems, now AMI Semiconductor, laid off 170 more as it joined the other high-tech companies in cutting back production in response to global economic conditions.

The decline in manufacturing combined with weakening in urban construction, primarily in commercial development, to drive the value of goods production down significantly in 2002.

The service side of the economy continued to grow, but again rural Idaho outpaced the metro areas in 2002. Resort area activity was one of the major reasons for dramatic growth in the real estate and financial sectors in the rural part of the state.

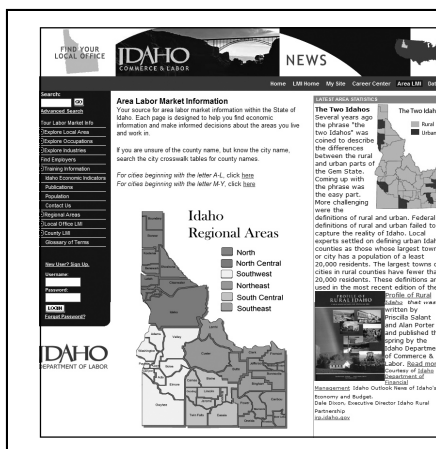
Overall, Idaho's rural counties added 1,400 nonfarm jobs in 2002 while the metro areas lost 900. It was only

the second time since 1990 that rural Idaho exceeded the cities in job growth. The gross domestic product figures only go back to 2001.

But once the worst was past, the growth again gravitated to the urban centers, and rural Idaho resumed its more modest, steadied economic growth. South central Idaho particularly has gotten a major boost in recent years with the entry of trailer manufacturers and the expansion of cheese makers.

By 2005, however, the rural contribution to statewide gross domestic product had dropped below the 2001 level. Economic expansion was again clearly centered on the metropolitan areas.

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LMI WEB SITE UPDATE

Labor market information for each of Idaho's six work force regions is available on the Web at lmi.idaho.gov under the top menu item "Area LMI."

The Regional home page is pictured on the left.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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